

DisabilityNOW

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the picture

Schools to come under DDA

The Government is set to meet the demands of the disability rights movement to include education in civil rights law.

This could include a ban on schools and education authorities discriminating unfairly against disabled pupils, and a duty on them to improve access.

Students in further or higher education could get similar enforceable rights.

These are proposals in a long-awaited report from the Disability Rights Task Force (DRTF), a team of advisors set up by the Government to recommend improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Disability groups hope the Government will use forthcoming education bills to implement the DRTF recommendations.

The DRTF says all employers could be covered by the DDA's employment provision, which would end the exemption of employers with fewer than 15 staff, the prison, fire and armed services, and the police.

And transport organisations

should have a duty to provide their services to disabled people, the report says. So a bus driver could not turn a disabled person away from an accessible bus simply because they were disabled. A date should also be set for trains to be made accessible.

The report adds that the Department of Health should consider national standards for health care of disabled people. And it should ensure doctors do not base treatment decisions on what they think about disabled people's quality of life.

Bert Massie, ex-director of RADAR, a DRTF member and chair of the new Disability Rights Commission, said: "We understand that the Government is going to move quickly on education, which is immensely encouraging.

"We must now ensure all the recommendations end up in law or as good practice."

The report also calls for a duty on bodies like local authorities to lead the way in increasing equality. This was welcomed by Brian Lamb, a DRTF member and head of public affairs at Scope.

Cabinet Office minister Ian McCartney has announced that such a duty will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Colin Low, vice chair of the Royal National Institute for the

Blind and another DRTF member, said: "The report contains a comprehensive set of detailed recommendations which, if implemented, could make a real difference to the lives of disabled people."



Looking forward: International Day of Disabled People on 3 December was celebrated with a reception hosted by Disability Sport England (DSE). Present were (l to r) Paralympic swimmer Chris Holmes, Olympic athlete Kelly Holmes, Paralympic athlete Noel Thatcher and DSE patron Chris Moon.

DRC gets non-disabled chief executive

A non-disabled civil servant has been appointed as chief executive of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), which is due to start working in April.

Bob Niven was previously director of equal opportunities policy within the Department for Education and Employment.

The Government has pledged that the majority of DRC commissioners will be disabled people. However, no such undertaking has been made with regard to the recruitment of DRC staff.

Richard Wood, chief executive of the British Council of Disabled People, said: "Yes, we would prefer disabled people on there. But the fact that the Government has agreed that most of the commissioners will be disabled is a significant advance."

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Benefits cut despite GP's advice

A Dunbartonshire disabled woman who was advised to apply for a higher rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) by her doctor has had all her disability benefits stopped instead.

Jane Hind, 47, who has asthma, arthritis and the skin condition neurofibromatosis has lost £40 DLA

and £50 Mobility Allowance per week and is about to lose her Motability car.

Mrs Hind was assessed by medical practitioners from the Benefits Agency in March 1999.

They found Mrs Hind was able to walk 300m outdoors without assistance, despite a doctor's report that said she could not. They also found she

could attend to her own bodily functions and cook a meal.

Colin Hind, 37, Mrs Hind's husband and carer, said: "Because my wife had hard skin on her feet they said it was an indication that she was walking. But that is caused by her skin condition."

"Our GP has stated that my wife is unable to cook, and he

has known her for three years," he added.

A spokesperson for the Benefits Agency said she could not comment on individual cases.

"DLA is payable as long as a person's condition means they need care in the home or their mobility is affected," she added.

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[†]Subject to status. 12,000 miles per annum. Written details on request.

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Motability

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Inclusion proposals

The Government must be more flexible with disabled people who are not entitled to receive disability benefits but still face labour market discrimination.

That is one finding of the report *An Inclusive Future** by the independent think tank Demos. The report was commissioned by the National Disability Council.

Author Ian Christie said: "We need a far more flexible welfare system, which lets you mix benefits with paid work or community involvement."

Disabled people should be involved in advising on design of mainstream products, services, and policy. This would give far more opportunities for inclusion, the report said.

But, for now, disabled people remain among the poorest and most socially excluded in society, according to the report *Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 1999*** published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Figures for people of working age showed that in 1998 two million disabled or sick people had been on sickness, disability or means-tested benefit for two years or more.

- Baroness Rosalie Wilkins used her maiden speech in the Lords to highlight the social exclusion faced by young disabled people in care. She urged the Government to include them in its social inclusion legislation.

Over a quarter of children in care are disabled, she said. They

are less likely to be fostered, and an increasing number stay in school for 52 weeks a year.

"The spectre that haunts them is not of being thrown out on the streets but of lack of any personal concern and expectation that they could do more, sentencing them to a lifelong experience of institutional care," she said.

She added that it was important that the advisers and pathway plans recommended in the Government's consultation paper should draw on the experience of the independent living movement, which has two projects where disabled adults support young people.

*£11.95, tel: 0208-986 5488.

**£16.95, tel: (01904) 430033.



BILL KENNEDY

Model people: Natalie Doyle, 20, and Ben Ashwell, 23, are winners of the Leonard Cheshire VisABLE competition to find disabled models. Ben, who has spina bifida, works in the money market and swims for England. Natalie, who is deaf, is studying interior design.

Nursing care confusion

Many nursing home residents are still paying for their own nursing care despite a judgement last year which clarified when payment is the responsibility of the NHS.

A survey* by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) of about 25 English and Welsh health authorities found that almost 90 per cent are not following the ruling. A precedent was set by the Court of Appeal in the case of Pamela Coughlan against North and

East Devon Health Authority last year (DN, September).

The court ruled that where the primary need for nursing home accommodation is a health need, nursing services must be provided by the NHS and not by social services.

RCN general secretary Christine Hancock said: "Anyone in need of nursing care should be entitled to it free under the NHS."

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Beacon fails to shine



A top school could face a crisis over physiotherapy for disabled pupils because of a national shortage of physios.

The mainstream Priory School, Slough, singled out as a beacon school to promote educational excellence, has 47 disabled children. Parents are angry that physio has been cut and assistants are doing much of the work.

Carron White, whose disabled son Jack attends the school, said: "I am disgusted."

Physio is bought from East

Berkshire Community Trust by local authorities. The hospital has failed to replace physios who have left.

Headteacher Elaine Fear said: "If we do not get someone it will be a crisis."

Adrian Salter, children's services manager at the Trust, said it could not match the wages physios could earn in London.

A DN survey last year also revealed serious shortcomings in adult physio provision.

A Chartered Society of Physiotherapy spokesman said: "The NHS needs to be a much more competitive employer."



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Main benefits	Now (£/week)	April '00 (£/week)
Attendance Allowance		
Higher	52.95	53.55
Lower	35.40	35.80
Child Benefit		
First child (couple/lone parent)	14.40/17.10	15.00/17.55
Each other child	9.60	10.00
Disability Living Allowance		
Care component:		
Higher	52.95	53.55
Middle	35.40	35.80
Lower	14.05	14.20
Mobility component:		
Higher	37.00	37.40
Lower	14.05	14.20
Disabled Person's Tax Credit		
Basic credit		
Single	54.30	55.15
Lone parent/couple	83.55	84.90
30 hours credit	11.05	11.25
Child credits		
Under 11	19.85	21.25
11-16	20.90	21.25
16-18	25.95	26.35
Disabled child	21.90	22.25
Income threshold		
Single	70.00	71.10
Lone parent/couple	90.00	91.45
Incapacity Benefit		
Long-term	66.75	67.50
Short-term		
(under pension age)		
Lower	50.35	50.90
Higher	59.55	60.20
Short-term		
(over pension age)		
Lower	64.05	64.75
Higher	66.75	67.50
INCOME SUPPORT		
Residential care homes		
Very dependent elderly	252.00	256.00
Physical disablement:		
Under pension age	298.00	303.00
Over pension age	218.00	221.00
Mental handicap	262.00	266.00
Max Greater London increase	45.00	46.00
Nursing homes		
Physical disablement:		
Under pension age	367.00	373.00
Over pension age	325.00	330.00
Mental handicap	332.00	337.00
Terminal illness	325.00	330.00
Max Greater London increase	50.00	51.00
Personal allowances		
Single, under 18, usual rate	30.95	31.45
Single, under 18, higher rate	40.70	41.35
Single, 18-24	40.70	41.35
Single, 25 or over	51.40	52.20
Couple, both under 18	61.35	62.35
Couple, one or both over 18	80.65	81.95
Industrial injuries Disablement Pension		
Over 18 (20% disability)	21.62	21.86
Under 18 (20% disability)	13.24	13.39
Over 18 (100% disability)	108.10	109.30
Under 18 (100% disability)	66.20	66.95
Invalid Care Allowance	39.95	40.40
Retirement Pension (A & B)	66.75	67.50
Severe Disablement Allowance		
Basic rate	40.35	40.80
Age-related addition:		
Higher	14.05	14.20
Middle	8.90	9.00
Lower	4.45	4.50
Statutory sick pay		
Earnings threshold	66.00	67.00
Standard	59.55	60.20
War Disablement Pension (100%)		
Private or equivalent	114.70	116.00
Widow's pension	66.75	67.50
Working Families' Tax Credit		
Basic credit	52.30	53.15
30 hours credit	11.05	11.25
Child credits		
Under 11	19.85	21.25
11-16	20.90	21.25
16-18	25.95	26.35
Income threshold	90.00	91.45

NB: The 11-16 and 16-18 child credits are paid from the September following the 11th and 16th birthday respectively.

THANKS TO JAN BRAYBON OF THE DISABLEMENT INCOME GROUP

Watchdog unleashed on residential homes

Following revelations that four out of ten local authorities in England are failing to inspect care homes regularly, the Government has announced a new watchdog to ensure higher standards of long-term care.

The National Care Commission announced by Health Secretary Alan Milburn in December will also look at nursing home costs, health insurance and the sale of houses when older people enter care homes. It is due to be up and running by spring 2002.

Mr Milburn said: "The watchdog will be responsible for ensuring high standards of care wherever it is provided and whoever provides it."

The announcement follows the publication of the

Government's first local authorities' performance indicators, *Social Services Performance in 1998-99: The Personal Social Services Performance Assessment Framework*.*.

The report revealed that 17 of the 150 social services departments in England are failing and have been placed on "special measures". In 16 of those 17 authorities the heads of social services have lost their jobs as a result.

Richard Kramer, head of campaigns at Mencap, said: "The number of authorities revealed to have poor records on inspecting residential homes is quite appalling. That is why the Care Commission's standards are so important."

• Researchers for the BBC

exposé programme *MacIntyre Undercover* delayed reporting the suspected abuse of residents in a Kent care home for ten months.

The alleged treatment of people with learning difficulties was first discovered and filmed at Christmas in 1998 but was not reported until hidden TV cameras could regain access to the private home the next autumn.

A BBC spokesperson said: "The team wanted to go back to check their findings were an accurate portrayal. What they saw the second time was even more disturbing. Had they gathered that evidence on the first visit, they would have taken immediate action."

*Free, fax: (01623) 724524.

Spinal Injuries appointment

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) has appointed a new, non-disabled executive director.

Brenda Bond, whose background is in nursing, has been chief officer at Age Concern in Gateshead since 1992. She replaced Peter Mansell, who is disabled, in November. Ms Bond's work will involve developing SIA nationally.

She said: "We are looking at the possible development of a northern site as the first step towards becoming a genuinely national organisation."

Spinally injured people would still be in charge of the charity, as every full member of the governing council is spinally injured, she said.

She added: "I admire SIA for recognising that what they wanted was the best person for the executive director's job."

Mr Mansell is now a Department of Health policy officer.



Mum's the word! Gemma Roberts, 6, from Bolton helped Jane Asher (right) present her mum Linda (left) with a Leonard Cheshire Enabled Award in December. The award recognises achievements of people who have made a difference to disabled people's lives.

Rights movement split call

The disability rights movement may split after a vote by the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) took it nearer to leaving the umbrella group Rights Now.

The BCODP conference, which airs members' views, voted in October by 18 votes to 16 to split with Rights Now, which includes disability organisations such as Scope and RADAR.

Some BCODP members feel Rights Now has gone soft on

repealing the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), which they want to see replaced with comprehensive civil rights.

Richard Wood, chief executive of BCODP, said that the organisation's national council would decide whether to make the split in February.

Rachel Hurst, chair of Rights Now, said: "We are absolutely committed to getting comprehensive civil rights laws the quickest way we can. We may need a new law, but we

may not. If we change the DDA in the very profound way that we should, then it will be a new law anyway."

Meanwhile, Mr Wood denied that BCODP is facing serious cash problems, despite a call for a review of management wages in the light of a "financial crisis". The call was rejected by the conference.

BCODP would be fine if lottery and government funding is renewed this year, he said.



GERALD SHARP PHOTOGRAPHS

Art for all: the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent, was among winners of awards from the Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises Today (ADAPT) Trust. (L to R) Julia Wood of the city of Stoke on Trent, Lord Snowdon, ex-museum employee Kathy Niblett, councillor Chris Wood and museum manager Pamela Mallalieu.

Chromosome cracked

Treatments for deafness, schizophrenia, learning disability, heart disease and cancer could all be helped by the mapping of the first of the 23 human chromosomes.

Researchers from the Sanger Centre near Cambridge have taken the lead in decoding chromosome 22.

Chromosomes are made up of a sequence of DNA, which is the blueprint for life.

The Sanger Centre's work is part of the international human genome project which will have mapped all 23 chromosomes by 2003, listing

three billion letters in combination. All will be published freely.

Dr Michael Dexter, director of the Wellcome Trust, which funded the Sanger Centre's work, said that the announcement would be seen as a scientific "milestone" 1,000 years from now.

The Centre's work on chromosome 22 has already helped develop a test for DiGeorge syndrome, which causes heart problems and fits.

Professor Peter Scambler of the Institute of Child Health at Great Ormond Street Chil-

dren's Hospital said it would allow earlier diagnosis and treatment, individualised treatment and new drugs.

He added: "An understanding of cell functions may help us to design treatments in the distant future aimed at tissue repair to help the surgeon."

But Bill Albert, chair of the genetics committee of the British Council of Disabled People, told DN: "What are coming are more prenatal tests and therapeutic terminations. It is much easier to detect and abort than to develop a treatment."

In brief

Millennium man dies

Herbert Blunden, the 94-year-old who featured in DN's millennium pages in December, has died.

Herbert, who was deaf and, in his later years, visually impaired, died in hospital. He had been suffering from bronchial pneumonia.

He and his wife Muriel, who died about 15 years ago, had worked as welfare workers for the Sussex Deaf Association.

Police fail on deaf awareness

Police officers' lack of awareness could mean deaf people are being denied access to justice.

According to the UK Council on Deafness (UKCoD), deaf people can face problems during police interviews, including a failure to ensure that they understand what is going on. Evidence of these problems was presented at the UKCoD's annual general meeting in November.

Steve Powell, chief executive of UKCoD member group Sign,

said: "Improved awareness would make a big difference to deaf people's experience of police custody."

A Home Office spokesperson said: "The Police and Criminal Justice Act contains specific provision regarding the treatment of deaf people. If someone detained or otherwise by the police appears to be deaf, the officer must call an interpreter as soon as possible and use them in all future proceedings."

Remploy row

The GMB union has accused Remploy of betraying disabled workers. The Government-funded employment scheme announced in November that more than 900 jobs are to go and some factories are to close.

Remploy plans to axe jobs by 913 to 5,653 over the next two years and close nine out of 87 factories. The closures were proposed in August 1999.

Tony Withey, chief executive of Remploy, said: "There will

be no compulsory redundancies of disabled people and we will create an extra 1,000 jobs for disabled people over the next three years, mainly through Interwork, Remploy's agency."

Phil Davies of the GMB union said: "The Government is hoping mainstream employers will suddenly see the light and start employing disabled people, but we are decades away from that."

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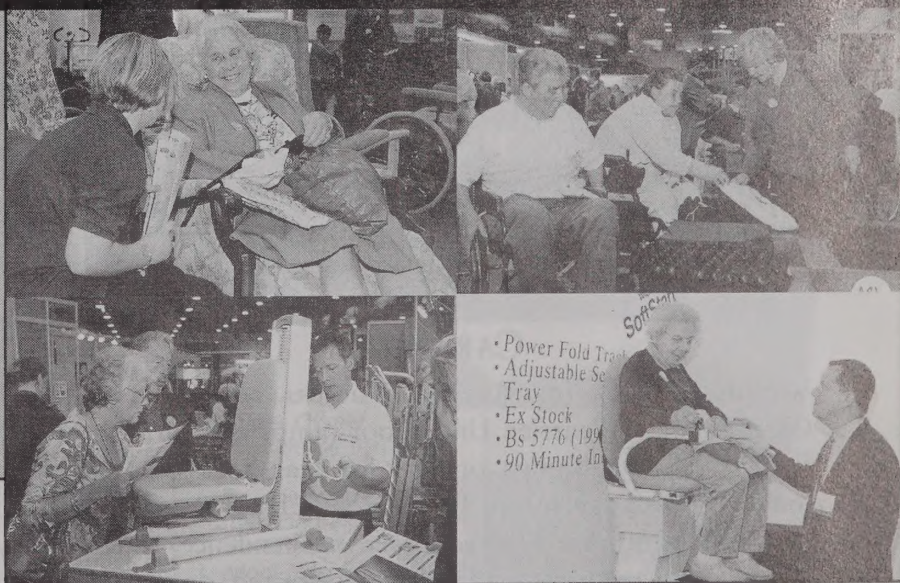
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DN gives a round-up of some of the disability stories that appeared in the media earlier in the month

Children's charter

A charter for children was launched by the charity Mencap in November to mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The *Mencap Children's Charter** calls for equal rights for all children. The charity claims that children with learning disabilities are denied some

rights that are enshrined in the Convention.

Lesley Campbell, Mencap children's officer, said: "In theory children with learning disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. In practice, accessing these rights is much harder. Mencap is determined to give these children a voice."

*Tel: 0207 696 5593/5503.

Social services shake-up

Health Secretary Alan Milburn announced the setting up of a social care institute of excellence at the end of October.

The new body is likely to be similar to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and will produce guidelines and protocols for best practice and effectiveness in social services.

Suggested areas of attention include combating "postcode lottery" care and ensuring standards of social workers and care homes. A new strategy to focus on improved provision of day care for people

with learning disabilities was also announced.

Mr Milburn said: "Social services should exist, as far as possible, to enable people to get on with their own lives."

David Congdon, Mencap's director of public affairs, said: "Mencap welcomes these structural changes. But if this strategy is going to work, the Government must ensure that social services departments get an increase in funding."

See main news for recent disclosure of poor standards in local authority social services.



MICHAEL MELIA

Winning smiles: cricketer Dan Holder and percussionist Evelyn Glennie were two of the 12 winners of the 1999 People of the Year Awards sponsored by Lunn Poly and the charity RADAR. Heather Mills, charity campaigner and TV presenter, also won an award.

'Derisory' pension rise

Age Concern England director general Sally Greengross has condemned the Government's 75p increase in the basic state pension as "derisory".

Ms Greengross welcomed other measures, including the

abolition of TV licences for people over the age of 75.

However, she added: "Britain's pensioners would rather have a decent level of state pension in their pockets than a series of concessions."

Deaf jury service challenge

The chief executive of the British Deaf Association (BDA), Jeff McWhinney, has tried to challenge a law preventing deaf people from doing jury service.

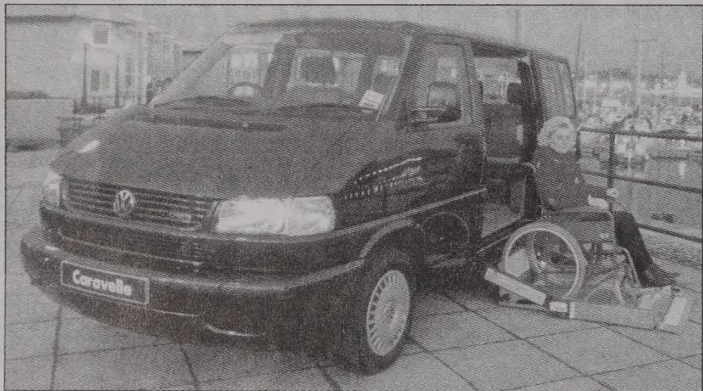
But in November a judge at Woolwich Crown Court upheld a previous ruling that Mr McWhinney, 39, who is profoundly deaf, could not do jury service. Mr McWhinney was originally called for jury service in April.

Judge Shirley Anwyl QC found that it was illegal for a sign language interpreter to be present at jurors' deliberations because it breaks the rule that only 12 people can be present. Mr McWhinney and the BDA have announced that they are pursuing the case and a similar one of a Kent social worker.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, has called for a review of the law and a report is expected next year.

Mr McWhinney said: "The ban on deaf jurors is an affront to the deaf community and undermines the credibility of the justice system."

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Education shake-up

The Government has announced two new education bills aimed at improving standards of service in special needs education.

The Special Educational Needs Bill aims to improve the service available to parents of children with physical disabilities or emotional and behavioural difficulties. The bill will include measures to speed up decisions regarding education and to extend conciliation arrangements for resolving disputes between parents and schools. It retains the right for parents to have their disabled child "statemented" and strengthens their right to have him or her educated in a mainstream school.

The bill will be based on the

report *A Programme of Action - Meeting Special Educational Needs** published in November.

A second education bill will place all post-16 education and training under a new Learning and Skills Council.

The Government announced both bills in the Queen's Speech in November.

Brian Lamb, Scope's head of public affairs, said: "The measures announced will lead to a significant change in the quality of education for disabled people."

• The removal of barriers in access to post-16 education and employment were amongst recommendations made in a report published by the cross-party House of Commons Education and

Employment Committee.

The report *Opportunities for Disabled People***, published in November, called for the extension of the Disability Discrimination Act to cover education and training and of the Access to Work scheme to include work placements and further education.

It called for funding to ensure accessible higher education institutions and changes to the benefits system to enable disabled people to take on "therapeutic work".

*Free, tel: 0845-602 2260, quoting publication code MSEN-PAF.

**£10.60, tel: 0207 219 3890, quoting House of Commons Paper 111.

See also *Your rights*, page 14.



FRANCESCO CILLINI/CASSIDY AND LEIGH

Oh baby! Congratulations to Terri Cornell, 29, who is the first woman with cystic fibrosis to give birth after *in vitro* fertilisation. Cameron was born via Caesarean section in July 1999. Women with cystic fibrosis can have significantly reduced fertility.

New 'ability to work' test

Disabled people applying for Incapacity Benefit (IB) are to have their ability to work assessed to help them find jobs.

Following rules which came into effect in December, disabled people seeing a doctor for the All Work Test, which assesses inability to work and entitlement to IB, will also include a Capability Report looking at what they can do.

The Capability Report will be sent to a personal advisor who can help them find work if they want it.

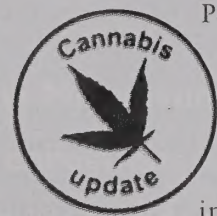
The report will not affect people's benefits entitlement.

The measures will operate as pilots in the 12 areas operating the ONE scheme, which provides a one-stop shop on employment and benefits applications.

Are you a Sainsbury's shopper?

If you want to buy your *DN* at Sainsbury's and you don't see a copy on the shelves, ask your local branch to order one for you.

Cannabis trials launch



People with multiple sclerosis, phantom limb pain and spinal injuries will

be among the first to take part in cannabis extract trials early in 2000.

Up to 200 disabled people will take part in the first trials, but by 2001 there could be 2,000 participating.

The trials are being carried out by GW Pharmaceuticals.

DN readers who responded to an appeal for volunteers last year will be among those taking part.

Trials on six non-disabled people have finished. They used cannabis extracts at a variety of strengths using inhalers, drops and sprays.

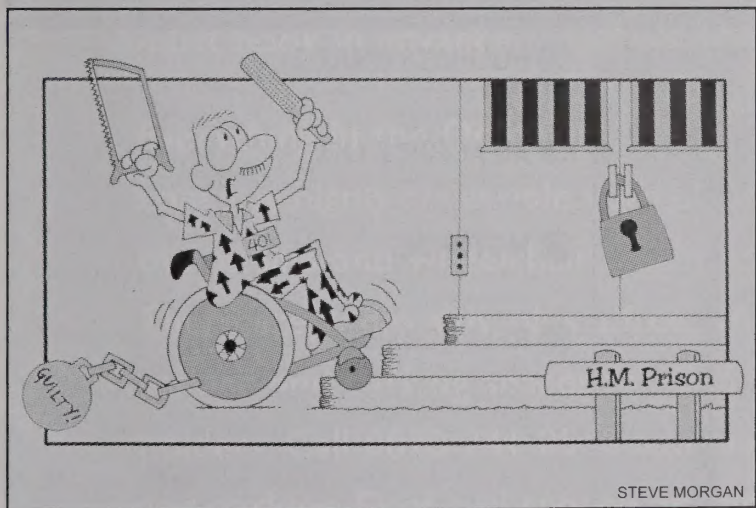
Dr Geoffrey Guy, chairman of GW Pharmaceuticals, said initial trials will aim to look at the best doses and the benefits.

He also hopes that the trials will help protect those already taking cannabis illegally.

"We would like to include them in our research, so that we can discover the same clinical benefits in these patients but also remove their risk of prosecution."

But he warned that many patients may not get into a trial until 2001.

The company hopes to have a cannabis-based medicine available for prescription within three or four years, and the Home Office has said it could change the law if a medicine of this kind was developed.



STEVE MORGAN

Prison problems

Adapting Britain's old and inaccessible prisons to conform with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) will be impossible or very expensive, according to the Howard League for penal reform.

League director Frances Crook has written to the director general of the prison service, Martin Narey, asking him how he intends to meet the access requirements of the DDA. These requirements

are due to be implemented in 2004.

Ms Crook was alerted to the problem when she saw prison inmates in wheelchairs stranded on their cell block landing. There are presently an estimated 400 disabled prisoners in Britain.

Ms Crook said: "There is no way the prison service can comply with the DDA because of the nature of the buildings. It would cost millions of pounds."

In brief

Charity workforce

Leading care charity Leonard Cheshire has finally responded to DN's request for the proportion of its employees who are disabled. Just under two per cent of the charity's present 6,150 staff say they are disabled.

A spokesman said: "We have come a long way on this. We have seen a doubling of disabled staff in the last 12 months."

Information awards

The National Information Forum (NIF) is to present its annual awards in April. It invites you to nominate any person or organisation who has devised an innovative or effective way of providing information to disabled people. There will also be special awards for the "information pioneers" of the century.

Nomination forms can be obtained from NIF, tel: 0207-402 6681. Proposals need to be submitted by 11 January.

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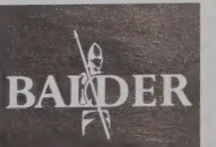
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Embryo ethics call

Public opinion is being sought on the ethics of a treatment that allows parents to produce several embryos outside the womb, test them for genetic disorders and then implant the non-impaired ones.

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) treatment is currently available at four licensed centres in the UK. An estimated 150 couples have used the £1,000-plus technique since it was introduced in 1990.

PGD can currently only be used by parents with a family history of disorders such as Huntington's chorea and Tay-Sach's disease to ensure that

they do not have a child with the condition.

Parents can choose whether impaired embryos created during PGD treatment are frozen, donated or "allowed to perish".

James Yeandel, spokesman for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), said: "We feel it is time the public had a say. Not many people have come forward for PGD treatment over the last ten years, but if it does become more popular, then we will have guidelines in place."

Tom Shakespeare, research development officer at the Policy and Ethics Research

Institute in Newcastle, said: "This consultation is good in theory, but in practice it needs to be further reaching. It rules out certain implications that will become increasingly important. For example, will this technology be employed over a wider and wider range of cases and will people, other than those affected by a severe impediment, be offered it when having IVF fertility treatment?" For a copy of the consultation document on PGD, published by the HFEA and the Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing, tel: 0207-377 5077 or visit www.hfea.gov.uk Responses are needed by 31 March 2000.



Do you feel the media doesn't represent the views of disabled people? Well, now's your chance to get your voice heard.

DN is looking for disabled people of all ages from different parts of the country to form a readers' panel. Your views are sought on issues of the day, such as genetic testing and disabled parking abuse – and about new equipment.

Panel members will be contacted periodically by DN – no more than a few minutes a month. You must be contactable by telephone, textphone or e-mail in office hours and be prepared to respond swiftly.

To apply to join the readers' panel, write, e-mail or fax us the reasons why you think you would be the best person for the job. Entries should be no more than 250 words. DN's contact details are on page 2.



CHARLES GREEN

Top work! John Kendall from Christchurch, Dorset, has been awarded an MBE in recognition of his work for Mencap and other charities. Sixty-four-year-old Mr Kendall is believed to be the first person with learning difficulties to receive this prestigious award.

In brief

Media award

More disabled students and graduates wanting to work in the media will benefit from a £211,000 National Lotteries Charities Board award to Workable.

The Mediabile project will be able to expand its work experience placements, award scholarships to disabled graduates and provide more information and support. Tel: 0208-286 4107.

Employer guide

The Government has launched a new guide called *Employing Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide for Employers and Managers*. Tel: 0345-622 633, textphone 0345-622 644.

IT training

Lindale Community IT Centre is offering IT training courses in its fully accessible and adapted centre in South Cumbria.

Short and long courses, personal training and group computer training sessions are all available.

For more information, contact Sue Sharkey or Emma Wattam, tel: (01539) 533480.

Helpline change

The Scope Cerebral Palsy Helpline number has changed. This service offers free and confidential counselling and support to people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers, seven days a week.

The new freephone helpline number is 0808-800 3333. The line is open Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat and Sun 2-6pm.

Treatment rules response

Tough new rules forcing mentally ill people to receive treatment have been generally condemned by mental health groups.

The proposed rules were announced by Health Secretary Alan Milburn as part of the biggest shake-up in the mental health service for 40 years.

The green paper *Reform of the Mental Health Act 1983**, published in November, says that compulsory treatment orders should be extended to

cover people in the community as well as those in hospital. Potentially dangerous patients who fail to follow treatment orders after being discharged from hospital could then be returned for compulsory treatment.

Charities including Mind and the Mental Health Foundation have formed an alliance to oppose the proposed rules.

Mind press officer Sue Baker said: "Out-of-hospital compul-

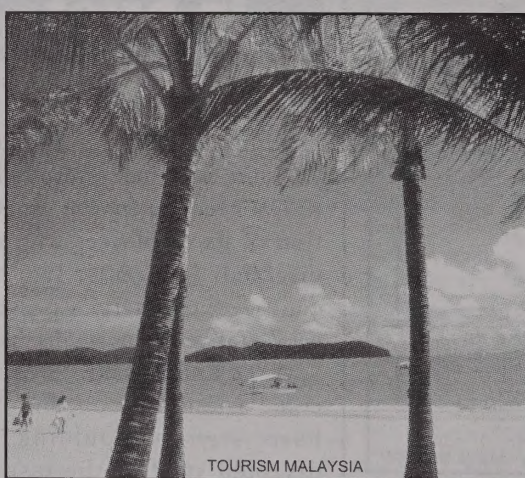
sory treatment orders won't necessarily lead to better public safety. In fact, they could turn users away from services."

But Michael Howlett of the Zito Trust, which campaigns for improvements in community care for severely mentally ill people, welcomed the proposals.

"We believe compulsory treatment orders are necessary to make sure those who are seriously challenging get help before it is too late," he said.

* £10.50, tel: 0870-600 5522.

What's in DN next month?



HOLIDAYS (PART 2)

More of your experiences, plus a free UK family holiday to be won.

AN ACTOR'S LIFE

Ben Furner has been a trainee on Graecae's new acting course.

MOTORING

David Griffiths checks out the new Peugeot Combi conversion.

RELATIONSHIPS

DN's annual feature includes prostitution, dating if you have ME and light-hearted advice on how to improve your courting skills.

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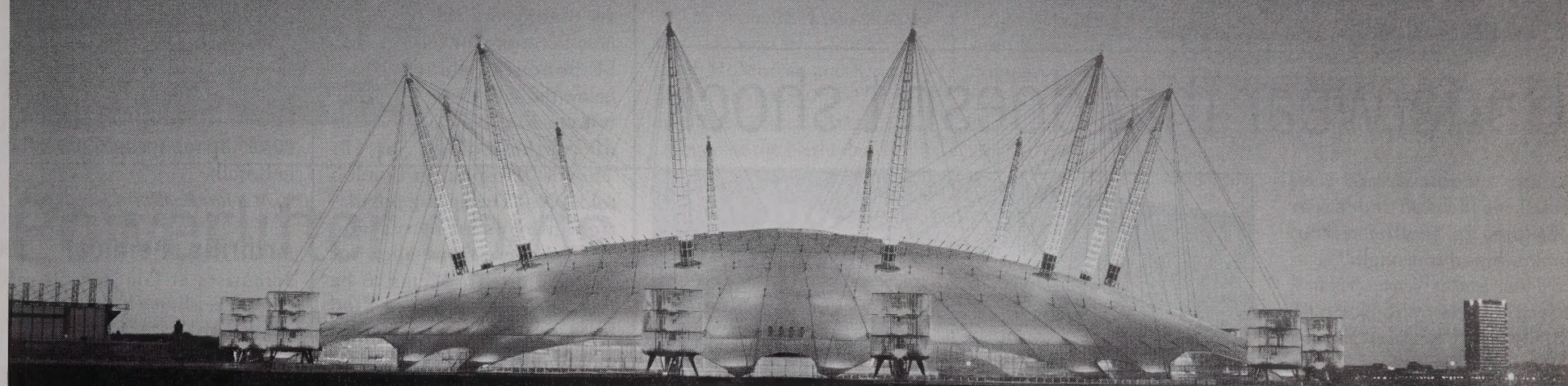
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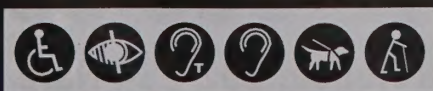
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Autism diet link

Cutting allergens out of a diet can help autistic children, a health expert has said.

Consultant paediatrician Dr Michael Tettenborn said that, of 57 autistic children he had treated in the last two years, 28 had shown improvements on diets free of chemicals contained in milk and wheat, and when given anti-fungal treatments.

Fifteen had deteriorated when treatment was stopped, said Dr Tettenborn of Frimley

Children's Centre and Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey.

The children Dr Tettenborn saw included those who had language problems, poor socialising skills and obsessive behaviour.

Dr Tettenborn said: "Autism is not an end-stage diagnosis in children. Many can be helped and some can be returned to mainstream schooling."

But he said there was a desperate need for further trials.

A spokesperson for the National Autistic Society (NAS) said: "We welcome anything that will help us to understand any more about autism."

"There are parents who find changes of diet important to their child, but it is very individual and what works for one person might not work for another," she added.

NAS runs an autism helpline, tel: 0870-600 8585.

Underwear that doesn't shock

Elderly people are to trial shock-absorbant underwear designed to cut the risk of broken hips through falls.

The underwear (*right*), which has plastic shields built into it, will be tried out by 4,500 people.

It may help women with the brittle bone condition osteoporosis and could reduce hip fractures. The pants transfer shock away from the hip area.

Men and women over 70 will be eligible to take part in the trial.

Women must have had a fall within the last year. They must also be at risk from such things as smoking or low weight or have had a hip fracture since the age of 40 or a history of



JOHN ROBERTSON

falls. Men must have had a fracture to take part in the trial.

Dr David Torgerson, senior research fellow at the Department of Health Studies at the University of York, said: "About ten per cent of people

die from hip fractures and they always lead to two weeks in hospital. The majority of survivors need help around the house and with shopping."

To take part in the trial, tel: (01904) 434121.

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Funding needed for eye condition

An eye condition which causes 50 per cent of blindness in Britain is not getting the research funding it needs, experts have said.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) has increased dramatically in recent years.

While the majority of cases are among the elderly, AMD now accounts for ten per cent of blindness among those below the age of 64.

John Marshall, a professor of ophthalmology at St Thomas' Hospital in London told DN: "The ageing population gives us an increase in AMD, but even if we allow for that the disease seems to be increasing."

Alan Bird, a consultant at London's Moorfields Eye Hospital, said that the Government provides funding for only one research project into the condition.

And Professor Marshall added: "In terms of eye diseases and blindness, AMD should have the highest priority and currently it does not."

It is thought that some people might be genetically prone to AMD, but additional triggers could include smoking, blue light from the sun, high-fat diets, artificial sweeteners and plastic food wrapping.

In brief

War illness clue

Gulf War veterans with mysterious illnesses may be closer to treatment. James Fleckenstein, a professor of radiology at the University of Texas South Western Medical Centre in Dallas, found a 2 per cent reduction in a brain chemical in veterans who were ill, leading to hopes of a treatment.

Medical info on web

A free website has been launched to give medical information to disabled people, carers and doctors. The site, Health in Focus, is backed by 30 of the top medical charities in Britain.

Visit www.healthinfocus.co.uk

Arthritis chemical

Scientists at Glasgow Royal Infirmary have identified a chemical in the body which switches off the inflammation process and could lead to new arthritis treatments. Thymosin beta 4 sulphoxide switches off the immune system if the latter begins to damage tissue when it attacks infections.

Muscle device launch

A company has launched a device which stimulates muscles and can be programmed to help people with conditions including spinal injury. The Neuro 4 from DMI Medical causes muscles to contract as they would in exercise. Tel: (01942) 238259.

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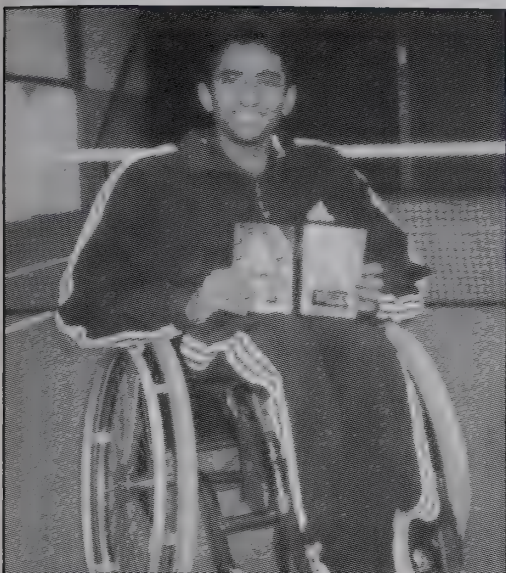
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Brit on top in tennis



Courting victory: Jayant Mistry

The British number one Jayant Mistry secured his first world-ranking tournament win of 1999 at the Nottingham Winter Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in November.

Mistry beat fellow Brit and third seed Simon Hatt 6-0, 6-0 in the tournament finals. The 32-year-old earned 225 ranking points to boost him from 16th to 14th

in the men's singles world rankings.

In the women's open singles, British number one Janet McMorran lost 6-1, 6-0 to the 1998 winner, Angela Maas of the Netherlands.

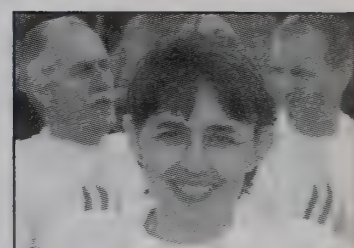
Mistry went on to win the men's open doubles with his partner from Sweden Peter Wikstrom, defeating the Dutch/Belgian pair Onno Van Nes and Gert Vos 6-2, 6-4.

The women's open doubles was also won by a British pair. Janet McMorran and Kimberly Dell scored a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Betty Klave and Mette Van Dongen of the Netherlands.

Team talk

Tanni Grey-Thompson

Should our funding be such a gripe?



In the UK there seems to be constant difficulty in funding, opportunity and coaches for disabled athletes.

These are issues that have been around ever since I started competing. Every time I go to the junior nationals (or even the senior), lack of money is one of the biggest gripes. At well over £1,000 for a chair, you can see why it is so hard.

However, sometimes you just don't know how lucky you are. I have just come back from South Africa and seen what a struggle it can be over there.

In the UK, you generally have to work and save money to buy a chair or prosthesis. In South Africa, this dream is outside the reach of many of the people that I met and talked to.

While I was away I had the chance to watch some of the local basketball teams practise. They were undoubtedly some

of the fittest people I have ever seen in my life. The fact that they played outside on a rough court in temperatures that seared my skin showed what access to sport means to them. There was a blatant desire to play that I haven't seen in many of our younger athletes of late.

The cost of a chair that would be suitable for a game was about £60 and they just could not afford it. I would be struggling to purchase two and a half tyres for that amount of money. Unlike these people, I have never really had to think about what I should sacrifice to buy a tyre: whether I should feed my family for a week or pay some bills instead.

Next time I hear someone moaning over here, I may just hold back on the lecture about what it was like when I was young, and instead tell them what it is like in South Africa.

Powerlifter golds

The British wheelchair powerlifting team returned from the European Powerlifting Championships in Budapest in November with four golds, a new European record and an equalised personal best.

World record holder Emma Brown won gold in the up to 82.5kg class with a lift of 127.5kg. Team mates Lisa Pudner and Anthony Peddle,

both in the up to 48kg class, joined Brown on the gold medal podium with lifts of 80kg and 157.5kg respectively. Pudner added a new European record to the haul and heavy-weight Chris Rattenbury (100kg plus class) equalled his personal best of 160kg. Nick Slater benched 235kg in the 100kg plus class to take a fourth gold.

CP Sport's successes

British players took gold and bronze in the Cerebral Palsy Sport National Open Table Tennis Championships in November, to which a Belgian team was invited. Colin Woodford took gold in the wheelchair group and Paul Karabardak took bronze in the ambulant group. The boccia pairs event was won by Toby Hewson and Richard Carroll.

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Life choices

As the Netherlands teeter on the brink of legalising euthanasia, Rod Hermeston finds heated debate in the UK, too

Denise Badland is incontinent, uses a wheelchair and has tubes going into her body – and that is okay, she says.

But Denise wants someone to kill her with a lethal injection if life becomes unbearable.

Denise, 44, of Coventry, has a type of multiple sclerosis (MS) which could get a lot worse over time.

"My biggest fear is not being able to swallow, being hooked up to machinery carrying out my life for me and having a tube to feed me," she says.

Voluntary euthanasia, where someone kills you on request, and assisted suicide, where you kill yourself with help, are both illegal in this country.

Doctors can, on the other hand, starve patients to death by withdrawing feeding.

So Denise has written a living will stating the conditions under which she would not want to be fed.

If she lived in the Netherlands, where about 4,000 people die from voluntary euthanasia each year, she would not be facing her current anxiety. While euthanasia is still an offence there, Dutch doctors can avoid prosecution for killing someone if they follow a set of guidelines to ensure that a patient facing intolerable suffering really does want to die.

The Dutch want to be the first country in the world to



Let me choose: Denise, who has a living will, and husband Ken

make euthanasia legal. A bill is now before parliament.

Most controversial of all, the law would let children as young

"It is very much a slippery slope which we must not go down"

as 12 request euthanasia against the wishes of their parents. This clause is likely to be thrown out by parliament.

Rob Jonquière, managing director of the Dutch Association for Euthanasia, believes the clause should be kept.

"A child in that situation is often more mature than an adult," he says.

He rejects claims that large numbers of people have been killed without requesting it.

It is true that only about 50 per cent of euthanasia cases are reported because doctors fear prosecution, but Mr Jonquière says that giving euthanasia a legal footing will reduce the risk of improper killings because the whole issue will be more open.

So what about the rest of the world?

In Britain doctors can only give drugs which will hasten death, but they must prove that the reason for giving the drugs was to relieve pain. The Voluntary Euthanasia Society in the UK wants voluntary euthanasia to be legalised, but only for adults.

Switzerland allows assisted suicide and, in the USA, the state of Oregon has allowed assisted suicide since 1997 through the Death With Dignity Act. This Act could be under threat from another law banning the use of controlled drugs to help patients die.

Diane Colman, founder of the national disability group Not Dead Yet, would not mourn its passing.

According to figures from America's National Elder Abuse Centre, 450,000 old people were abused or neglected in the USA in 1996, many by their own family. Under these circumstances, Ms Colman would not be surprised to see people choosing death as a way out.

"In that kind of situation, it won't be just voluntary," she says.

She claims that euthanasia simply lets doctors off from treating people and that this would be a real problem in the USA with its inadequate health care system.

Back in Britain the Multiple Sclerosis Society, too, wants to see better care for people with

severe and life-threatening MS.

Chief executive Peter Cardy says: "Palliative and terminal care pioneered in hospices has been applied relatively rarely to ensure that dying with MS is as decent and dignified as can be."

While it wants wider availability of palliative care, the MS Society accepts some people might still want to choose death and it is planning to launch a consultation on assisted suicide among people with MS.

Rachel Hurst, director of Disability Awareness in Action (DAA), is worried about moves to make it easier to kill in societies which do not value disabled people.

"It tips the national consciousness over into thinking that killing people or helping people to die is acceptable therapeutic practice," she says.

But surely we would know where to draw the line?

World-famous ethics expert Professor Peter Singer of Princeton University in America is in favour of voluntary euthanasia but also believes that doctors should be able to kill severely disabled babies if that is

of parents to choose treatment.

While legalised killing is unlikely in Britain, the Lord Chancellor recently published plans for dealing with mentally incapacitated people in England and Wales. The report *Making Decisions** backed living wills where someone can state that they would not want certain treatment if they became mentally incapacitated. A court, or a

"Giving euthanasia a legal footing will reduce the risk of improper killings because the issue will be more open"

relative appointed earlier by the person, could also refuse treatment on their behalf.

Scotland and Northern Ireland are developing their own plans.

The British Medical Association, too, backs living wills. But it also believes doctors should not always have to go to court for permission to stop feeding when they feel treatment is not benefiting such patients.

Disability groups remain wary of others' attitudes to them.

DAA estimates that thousands of elderly people with



Dr Wilfred van Oijen (left) carried out euthanasia on his patient Cees van Wendel de Joode (right) at the latter's request in 1994. The case was the subject of a documentary shown on British TV.

what their parents want. He bases his arguments on children with spina bifida.

"Doctors allow these infants to die by non-treatment, but it may take three or four months. That seems cruel. You should be able to make the decision that it dies quickly."

But Tony Britton, publicity manager at the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, says: "It is very much a slippery slope which we must not go down."

Children who have been predicted poor quality of life by doctors have turned out fine, he says, but he supports the right

dementia are routinely denied the 'flu vaccine in this country.

Bob Williams-Findlay, chair of the British Council of Disabled People, sees much of this as killing disabled people through the back door: "The medical profession, the law and parliament are still jaundiced by their negative view of impairment."

So disabled people are divided on the issue. Some want the choice of death when it is right for them, fearing an unbearable life. Others see real danger, with society already only too eager to switch off the light.

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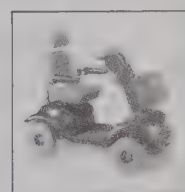
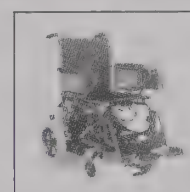
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A child-centred approach

Before 1983, disabled children and those who needed extra or different help were usually sent to special schools, which supposedly met the needs of children with their particular kinds of impairment.

Children were labelled "handicapped", "educationally subnormal", "delicate", etc.

Thankfully, most of those labels have disappeared and, through an important piece of legislation, the Education Act 1981, new provisions were put in place, requiring local education authorities (LEAs) to take a more "child-centred approach": to consider the specific needs of each child, rather than their "label".

That legislation has now been replaced by Part 4 of the Education Act 1996, and parents of children with special educational needs are likely to need to be familiar with its provisions.

The Government published a Code of Practice* as part of the requirements of the Education Act 1996. This Code is a very useful document and explains, in non-lawyer language, how needs are meant to be identified and met.

The Code of Practice identifies five stages of need.



Stage 1 is where a child has a need which can be met by a teacher obtaining information or advice from the school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) and sometimes the head teacher.

Stage 2 is where a child has needs which are met largely by the SENCO taking a lead in assessing the child's learning difficulties and planning, monitoring and reviewing the school's provision.

Stage 3 may arise when the school calls on other specialists (e.g. educational psychologists) to provide support.

Stage 4 is where it is decided that a child may have needs which require extra or different help to be provided by the LEA itself. This is what is known as the assessment stage.

Finally, stage 5 is reserved for children who require help which is additional to, or different from, that which is available in ordinary schools in the area.

Not all disabled children will have special educational needs at any of these stages, but those who do may have physical impairments, sensory impairments, learning difficulties or some form of challenging behaviour.

If a child has, or is likely to have, special educational needs which require additional or different help from the LEA, an assessment may be required in accordance with stage 4. The assessment may be started either by a school requesting

"Children used to be labelled 'handicapped' and 'educationally subnormal'"

the LEA to conduct it, by the parents doing so or by the LEA deciding to do so.

There is now a time limit for assessments, which means that, from the first decision to consider an assessment to the production of a statement of special needs following assess-

ment, the whole process should take no more than six months (sometimes it may take longer – in case of illness, for example).

Assessments are conducted by the LEA, which obtains reports from an educational psychologist, a teacher, the child's parents and a doctor. Sometimes, other advice is

"Parents must consider very carefully that all of the child's needs are properly reflected"

obtained, for example from specialist doctors.

Once an assessment is concluded, the LEA will decide whether the child does need extra or different help. If it decides that he or she does, it will produce a draft statement of special educational needs. This will be sent to the parents for consultation and after that the statement will be finalised.

The statement is a legal document. It contains all of the advice provided as part of the assessment; all of the child's needs and perhaps a general description of the child; the objectives of the statement; the detailed provision that the LEA will arrange to meet the child's needs and the monitoring arrangements; the name of the school or other place that the child will attend; and non-educational needs and provision.

Parents must consider very carefully that all of the child's needs and all of the provision that should be made to meet those needs are properly reflected in the statement.

Generally, the provision should be specific so that, for

example, it quantifies the number of hours of support, the type of expertise that needs to be provided, and so on.

Parents may ask for any school but will only obtain an independent school where there is no suitable state school. An LEA must give a place at a state school unless that school cannot meet the child's needs, other children would be adversely affected, it would be too expensive or it is full.

A statement must be reviewed at least once a year. If the provision is not made or if a named school refuses to take the child, steps can be taken.

A parent has rights of appeal against decisions not to assess, decisions not to statement, decisions to cease to maintain a statement and about the contents of the statement. Appeals are taken before an independent body, the Special Educational Needs Tribunal, and must be brought within two months of the decision being challenged. It is free to bring an appeal, although parents may incur charges if they need the services of a lawyer or special witness.

Advice is available about appeals and about special needs law generally. Contact a Family and the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) have information. Sometimes, parents will seek advice from specialist solicitors. *Free, tel: 0845-602 2260.

Contact a Family, tel: 0207-383 3555. IPSEA, tel: (01394) 380518. David Ruebain specialises in education and disability law at David Levene & Co Solicitors, tel: 0208-881 7777, minicom: 0208-881 6764.

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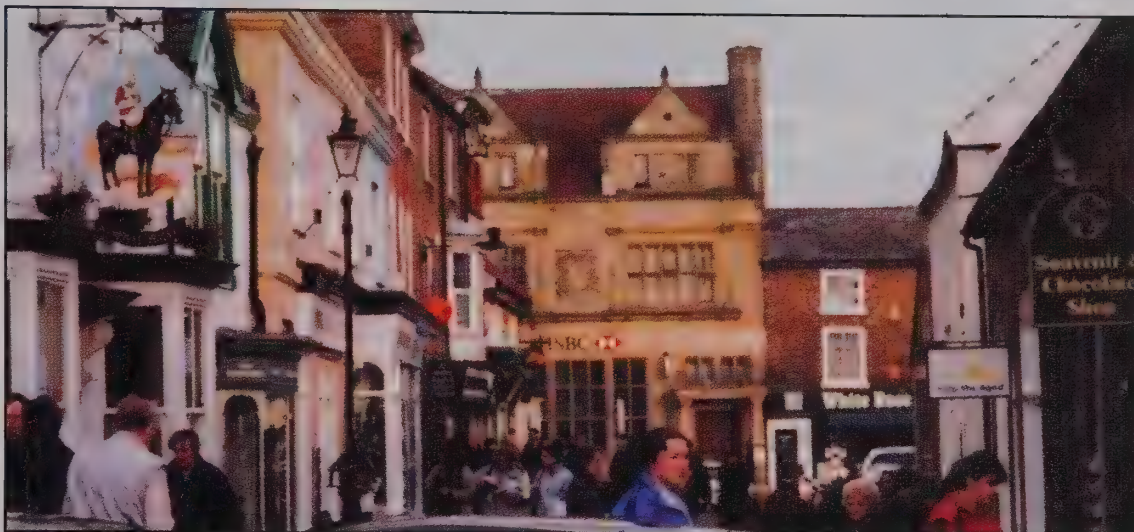
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What will the electronic trend in the world of banking mean for disabled people, asks Sally Brown

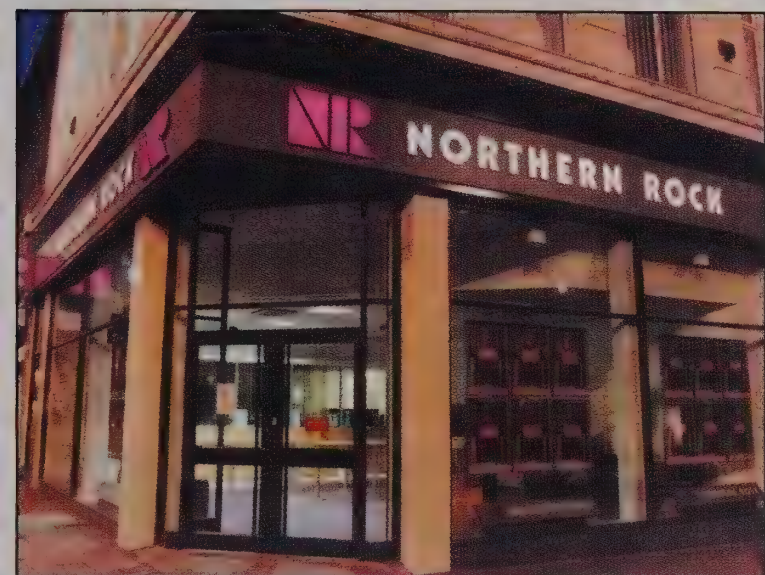
From high street to highway

Whether it's via phone, the TV or the internet, goods and services are becoming increasingly available without the need for us to set foot outside our homes. What are the implications of this for disabled people?

Banking is an area in which the electronic trend is most obvious. In November Barclays Bank axed 200 high-street branches and announced it would be taking on staff for call centres instead. Newcastle-based Northern Rock is also closing branches as part of a move towards phone and



Death of the high street: do bank branch closures signal an end to local shopping and services?



Not so solid: Northern Rock has announced branch closures

internet banking. Meanwhile, the first digital TV banking service is due to be launched by HSBC early in 2000.

The benefits of "virtual" banking for disabled people are obvious. Some telephone banking services offer typetalk or videophone sign language interpretation; screen software can help people with visual impairments; and shopping from home can help people with impaired mobility.

A survey carried out by the charity Help the Aged, whose results were published in November, found that many older people enjoy the ease of virtual shopping and banking – more than one-third of the 500 over-55s asked were regularly using computers for a wide range of tasks.

Paul Seward, HSBC's head of strategic planning, says: "We think disabled customers who have difficulty getting out will welcome TV banking. It will give them the convenience of being able to see their finances on their own screens."

However, there are some serious drawbacks to the "e" trend, not least the threat to local communities. As benefits are increasingly paid directly

into bank accounts, post offices could be under threat, too, and the traditional British high street could be in danger.

The Campaign for Community Banking (CCB) is a group of community and disability groups concerned at branch closures in rural and deprived inner-city areas. James

"The great risk is that everyone will be tapping away online and not meeting anyone"

Ford, a campaigns officer at CCB member Scope, says: "We don't want to increase the isolation of disabled people. The great risk is that everyone will be tapping away online and not meeting anyone."

Geoff Busby, editor-in-chief of the British Computer Society Disability Group's *Ability* magazine, is also concerned that getting connected electronically could mean disabled people become disconnected socially.

"I believe that e-commerce is essentially an empowering technology for people with disabilities – as for everyone

else," he says. "It may, however, encourage isolation."

And what about the expense of all this new technology? Many disabled people are on low incomes and cannot afford £1,000 plus for a computer or payments for digital TV, which starts at about £6 a month.

According to David Prytherch, project worker for the charity IT-Can-Help, finance is not the only issue. He says a greater number of disabled people would take advantage of new technology if more support was available. He is part of IT-Can-Help's network of experts providing computer installation and back-up services free to disabled people.

He is also concerned about the accessibility of new technology for disabled people: "There should be no discrimination. For example, an interface (the keyboard or other means of using a computer) should be designed so that someone with cerebral palsy can use it as well as someone who is non-disabled."

Unfortunately, it appears that banks may be about to repeat the same access mistakes as they did on the high street. HSBC, for example, has no plans to introduce adapted versions of its new TV banking system.

Helen Petrie, director of the Sensory Disabilities Research Unit at Hertfordshire University, produced some research on providing accessible cashpoints, but her findings were largely ignored by the industry.

She is now working on a report into online shopping for the British Computer Society of the Blind, the results of which will shortly be published at www.herts.ac.uk/sdru/. The unit is also looking at a computer mouse that allows

people to "feel" goods online.

Another concern is that the growth of "virtual" banking will be used as an excuse by the high-street banks not to make

"While there is a Barclays, there will be branches"

their buildings accessible.

The Government has expressed anxiety about the social costs of branch closures and has made a commitment to supporting the post office network.

When Treasury Economic Secretary Melanie Johnson announced its Policy Action

Team 14 report*, published in November, she said: "The Government continues to have high expectations of banks and other financial services providers. If voluntary action is unproductive and monitoring shows insufficient progress, it may be necessary to consider other options."

The banks deny that they are moving towards a world without branches.

Yasmin Choudhry of Barclays' retail financial services department says: "We are simply providing customers with a range of channels. While there is a Barclays, there will be branches."

Brian Capon of the British Bankers' Association says the trend is consumer-driven: "Banking is bound to go along this route as long as customers want it that way. Fewer and fewer people are going into branches."

The consensus is that present delivery systems will co-exist for the foreseeable future. However, as prices come down and cheaper alternatives open e-commerce up to more and more people, there seems no doubt that the future is virtual. It remains to be seen whether it will also be accessible.

*Ask for the Policy Action Team 14 report, tel: 0207-270 4558.

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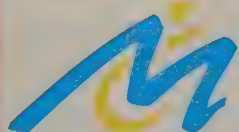
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'Imaginative solutions'

Disability consultant Phil Friend finds out what lessons the UK and USA can learn from each other



Following a study trip to the USA this summer, I made some comparisons of the progress on disability issues between the USA and the UK.

The aim of my visit was to research how small companies in the USA have responded to the Americans with Disabilities legislation introduced in 1990, and see what lessons the UK might learn.

The USA has certainly improved access, proving, for example, that ramps can be built in harmony with historic buildings.

They have also come up with imaginative solutions to a range of transport problems, with adapted hire vans a thriving industry in itself. Washington DC's metro shows an inspiring commitment to real equality. There were the usual nightmares elsewhere, though. Try getting a cab if you're in a wheelchair; the black cab services in the UK are superior.

My main interest was employment, and here progress seemed a lot less impressive.

Progress is hindered partly by federal *versus* state tensions. In addition, the system is clogged with bureaucracy which frightens off companies.

In spite of the fact that billions of dollars have been committed to employment for disabled people, in the form of tax breaks, state and federal grants and a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation service, the unemployment rate for disabled people remains exactly the same as in the UK.

In addition, most of the government agencies connected with employment still work on the principle of "beg, pray and hope".

The UK's Access to Work system is one instance of where this country is far ahead. While sometimes painfully slow, it is still more effective than many US alternatives.

But one initiative in the USA that is winning approval is a system which focuses on the employer's actual needs. By matching job requirements and

"By matching the job requirements and placing the right disabled candidate, real progress is being made"

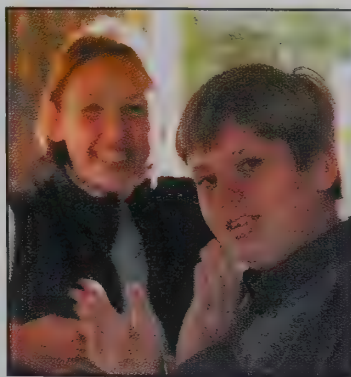
placing the right disabled candidate, real progress is being made – albeit still on a small scale.

The system operates in a similar way to a conventional job agency. Schemes are managed by people who understand the needs of the employer and the job seeker. They are proving so successful that even the most profoundly disabled people are now finding jobs and employers are actively seeking applications.

The visit was a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and share knowledge and I particularly valued discussions with the people actually doing the placement work.

I believe employment opportunities are very much down to people. Policies have their place, but employers have businesses to run. We must show how we can improve their profits by placing disabled people who can provide great job performance.

It can be done – as this US scheme clearly shows.



LES WILSON

I cannot recollect the moment when my brother Nicholas was diagnosed with a condition called tuberous sclerosis (TS). Nobody explained how Nick would be "different" to other children.

His illness causes him to have growths on his brain, tumours on his heart, cysts on his kidneys, learning difficulties, challenging behaviour, autistic traits and a severe facial rash. I cannot imagine him any different.

Nick is an inspiration to me. Although he suffers from uncontrolled seizures and sometimes becomes frustrated, he still remains content.

There have been occasions when Nick has made me angry,

Sisterly love

Katie Bevan-Jones has set up a support group for siblings of disabled children who desperately need someone to talk to

particularly if he has gone into a rage in public, pulling my hair, scratching my face and lashing out at the bewildering world around him.

At times I have felt really isolated. I remember the "spastic" jokes at school, their laughter and my pain.

A few months ago, Nick had a seizure and witnessing him going through so much pain made me feel helpless. My parents and Nicholas disappeared in an ambulance and I remained at home, waiting for news. I desperately wanted someone to talk to.

I am not the only person who has a sibling with disabilities. There are hundreds of others who experience similar emotions. Three of us, all with siblings who have TS,

have formed a support group called Sib Section. We all felt we could help one another.

Siblings are often the forgotten members of the family. They may worry about their brother or sister's well-being but refrain from talking to their parents as they don't want to increase the pressure.

Sib Section aims to let them express their fears, resentment, guilt, anger and opinions. We want to provide support and build lasting friendships.

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Sib Section's website is at www.tuberous-sclerosis.org Tuberous Sclerosis Association, contact Janet Medcalf, tel: (01527) 871898.

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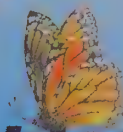
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Cartoon character

Guardian cartoonist Steven Appleby is a strange mixture of the ordinary and the extraordinary. Sally Brown finds out why

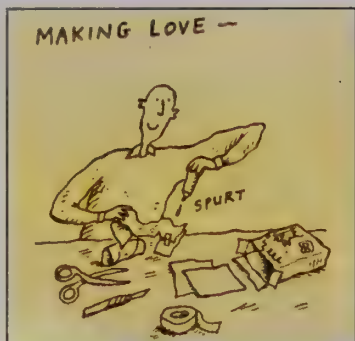
Cartoonist Steven Appleby is best known for his whimsical strips in the *Guardian*, *Times* and *Sunday Telegraph*. His wryly humorous takes on life, love, babies and aliens from outer space have been striking a chord with the chattering classes for the past ten years.

Appleby has also branched out into TV and books. His most recent hardback *The Truth About Love*, published at the end of 1999, guarantees a chuckle from anyone who has ever fallen head over heels.

Appleby is, like his cartoons, part Everyman, part downright weird. Dressed in unremarkable jeans and sweater, his fingers sport glittery gold nail polish and several oversize, ornate rings. "It's part of my attempt to grow old flamboyantly," explains the 43-year-old.

Appleby grew up in rural Northumberland in a large vicarage full of dogs. After leaving public school he experimented with pop music before going to Manchester Polytechnic to study graphics. It

was there that he first started to feel the symptoms of what were finally diagnosed as Crohn's disease, spinal arthritis and the skin disorder pyoderma gangrenosum – all triggered by the same auto-immune genetic disorder. The disorder interrupted Steven's studies and he was put on a series of steroids, anti-inflammatories

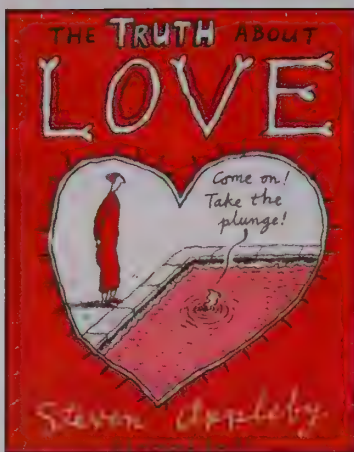


Appleby's take on romance

and anti-diarrhoea drugs.

"It must be unusual to have all the symptoms because I used to get presented to students a lot. But it did mean I got good treatment!" he recalls.

Steven has since had an operation to remove a section of his gut, has had two hip



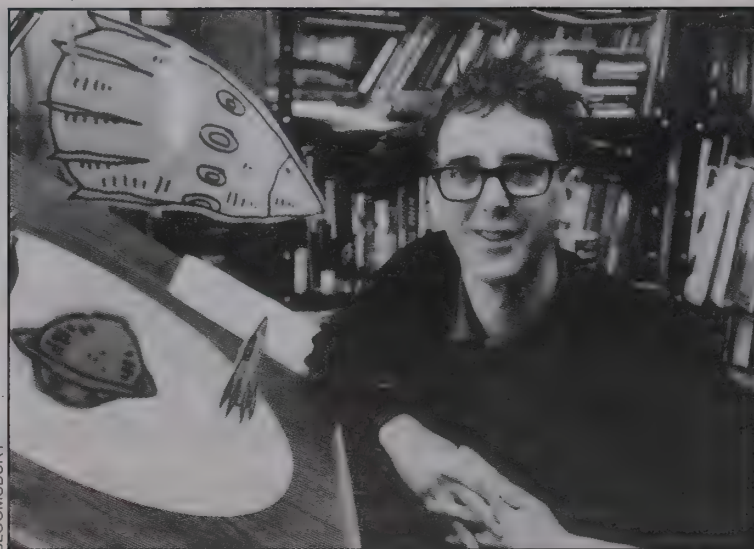
A book for lovers everywhere

replacements and now walks with the aid of sticks. None of this has hindered his rise to the top of the cartoonist's tree.

"It would have been a hindrance if I'd wanted to do something physical, but because I was interested in being an artist it wasn't a problem," says Steven.

He got his big break in 1986 when working as a graphic designer in London.

"I had a crisis. I didn't want to be a graphic designer – I wanted to create my own things," he says. "So I handed in



Drawing on experience: Steven Appleby with some of his work

my resignation. But instead they offered to keep paying me while I got started as a cartoonist."

This stroke of good luck led to the creation of the *NME* Captain Star character, which was later made into a TV series, and the launch of Steven's cartooning career.

Now he has married, become a step-parent and had children of his own, his cartoons have moved away from the weird and wonderful towards more earthly concerns. His *Secret Thoughts* books looked at dogs, cats and babies, while *Alien Invasion: The Complete Guide to Having Children* was inspired by the birth of his first son Jasper, now aged four. The Appleby family also includes

Tom, fifteen, Alfie, nine, and Clem, two.

Meeting his wife Nicola in 1993 was a watershed. Not only was Steven thrust into family life, but Nicola, a carpenter, also encouraged him to cut down his medication.

"I used to get up in the morning and take loads of pills," he says. "When I met my wife she said 'stop taking them', so I did and everything was fine. Maybe it was falling in love that did it!"

"I'm really just doing what entertains me and the people around me. I'm not unique at all. Something that hits me will resonate with lots of other people. I rely on that."

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Matters of principle

As two protestors responsible for pasting slogans on the International Centre for Life in March 1997, we must comment on the profile of Dr Tom Shakespeare (*DN*, December).

Tom states that disabled people cannot afford to "reject or ignore" genetics. A group of disabled people in the North East have been campaigning around genetics issues since the demonstration. We have a right to reject the elements of genetics which oppress us, particularly selective termination. What does that say about the value society puts on disabled people's lives?

A greater concern is that the scientists, medical and commercial interests that run the genetics industry will co-opt disabled "academics" and "leaders" as consultants, such as Tom Shakespeare, and then ignore the grassroots voices of the disabled people's movement. Tom states that his project is unique, but the list of people it will bring together does not include disability activists or feminists. This is why Tom has

sold out. He has not worked with grassroots organisations on these issues but has taken a salaried post with the very people who are threatening to eliminate some of us.

Some of Tom's friends think he is a little naive, but there are jobs that, if you have principles, you just do not take.

Also, Tom's position on some fundamental issues is unclear. He thinks his "condition" does not harm quality of life yet he seems to think that the problems related to his condition have helped him understand why other parents might want to avoid having a child who would suffer.

We are dealing with issues of impairment, pain and distress which the male-designed, traditional, social model has failed to do in the past. There are two principles we stand firm on: trying to rid society of disabled people is wrong, and taking money from vested interests would compromise our position.

Lucy Wilkinson, Dorothy Mallon
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

The Disabled Century

In reply to Michael Morgan's criticism of *The Disabled Century* (*DN*, October), what we set out to make, and what we asked – not forced – contributors to testify to, and share their experiences in, was a social history documentary series such as had never been made before.

It centred absolutely and directly on the lives and experiences of disabled people in Britain during the 20th century. Medical advances have been previously and fully documented in science programmes.

The scientists and physicians who developed vaccines or improved treatments were not disabled people. Similarly, the people who benefited from the vaccines, talking about how glad they were to have avoided disability, would have had no place in the series.

As the testimony of our contributors amply showed, much of the treatment meted out in the name of cure or rectification in the physical and psychiatric sectors of medicine was often misinformed, non-efficacious and, by the way, cruel and abusive. These treatments may now have gone away. But cruel and abusive social manifestations of the treatment of disabled people are, many would argue, still with us.

Ian Macrae
 Editor
 Disability Programmes Unit
 BBC, Wood Lane W12

No sentimentality

When reading Margaret Hodge's column (*DN*, November), I was almost convinced that she understood the real issues in the lives of disabled people. Then I got to her praise of "the wonderful Scottish hairdresser who decided to learn British sign language."

What's so wonderful about putting yourself out in order to treat another group of people with dignity and respect?

Applying the same sloppy sentimentality to those men amongst us who try to treat women with dignity and respect rather than as mere sexual objects makes us wonderful too, doesn't it?

Surely what all disabled people want, whether we are in favour of the disability posters or not, is a minister who will demonstrate a determination and commitment to end discrimination.

Professor Michael Oliver
 University of Greenwich

Student diary

'In all the excitement, I forgot to ask if there was a lift'

By Gillian Bell

Starting in January, I have a six-month work placement with Feantsa, the European federation of national associations working with the homeless.

The people there have been very friendly and helpful. I'm hoping to learn about policy making at the European level and pop into the European Parliament from time to time.

It didn't really sink in that I'd be moving to Brussels until I arrived here a few weeks back to find somewhere to live.

The journey by Eurostar was so easy – I didn't even need to get out of the car. It was a bit surreal, though, to be in England one minute and in France the next.

When I got to Belgium, I wondered what I'd let myself in for. Luckily, I wasn't on my own. The rush-hour traffic was horrific, and I discovered that when it comes to driving, the Belgians are on a par with the Italians.

Parking is a nightmare too. All the cars seem to have dents. One woman who wouldn't give up trying to park her people carrier in too small a space just took chunks out of the car behind.

After scouring *le Vlan* newspaper, I arranged to view



flats in Ixelles. I didn't have much luck initially, as most rents are for a minimum of a year, often three years. So I had to comfort myself with *moules-frites* (mussels and chips) and a *Kriek* (cherry beer).

Food and drink are much cheaper than in England. The tubes and trams are cheaper too – and on time. But the cobbles in the Grande Place were tricky to negotiate.

Fortified by the *Kriek*, I found an ad in an Irish pub. The place sounded ideal, but in all the excitement I forgot to ask whether there was a lift in the building, and which floor the studio was on. Unfortunately, it was on the third floor (up 72 steps). Worse still, the bed was up a step-ladder. It had to be scored off the list.

I'd more or less lost hope when I went into an agency on Avenue Louise. They offered to show me something straight away. It was an amazing apartment, and only a stone's throw from work. It was love at first sight. There's no need to face the morning rush-hour traffic: I can walk to work. There's a small grocery store at the end of the street, and a great little restaurant opposite, where we celebrated signing the contract.

And before you ask – my sofa is booked solid until April! Gillian Bell is a third-year law and French student at the University of Surrey.

DN's diary

By Dan Batten

Skid patch

Tory councillor Peter Forest of Haringey, London, voiced his disapproval at London Transport's new fleet of wheelchair-friendly buses in a recent

Millennium people

DN should have included people with head injuries or strokes (Emily Roberts) and the cellist Jaqueline du Pré, jazz pianist Michel Petrucciani and diabetic footballer Gary Mabbutt (Alan P Myers).

If George VI, why not other people with a stammer, like Sir Winston Churchill, Lewis Carroll, Somerset Maugham, Arnold Bennett? (StJohn Harris).

letter to *The Independent*. He said that reducing standard seating limits bus capacity "in a politically correct way", and adds that us crips have our "separate dial-a-ride services". Yet he went to great pains to show his support of "access initiatives". So access is ok as long as we don't block the buses? How about "all change" with some of your attitudes, Mr F?

Down the pan

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick came a cropper when she tried to use a loo for disabled people in the newly reconstructed Globe Theatre. An architectural gaffe meant the loo wasn't big enough for Lin to manoeuvre her wheelchair around in it and she was told the error can't be altered for "structural reasons". A farce worthy of the Bard, methinks.

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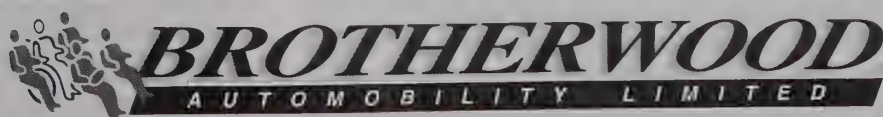
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DN brings you the first in its three-part holiday special featuring tips and tales to get you in the holiday mood

Go east!

When Daphne Mackie decided to go to Borneo, people tried to discourage her. But she took the plunge anyway...

“You’re going to Borneo? In a wheelchair? You can’t be serious!”

My family was horrified. They thought Borneo was a most unsuitable place for a grandmother with multiple sclerosis. But now that my children were grown up, I wanted adventure. I had been in Malaysia in the 1950s, learned to speak Malay and really loved the area. I ignored my family and booked myself and my husband James on our own tour of Borneo.

The overnight flight to Kuala Lumpur was 11½ hours long; economy class was cramped and my legs swelled enormously. Kuala Lumpur was enduring a heatwave and was one of the hottest cities in the world when we arrived. My legs remained swollen and I had to go to a clinic, where we were seen within a couple of minutes. I was prescribed some

medicine and found the charges quite reasonable. Such clinics are to be found all over Malaysia and it was quite reassuring to know I could see a doctor at any time.

Kuala Lumpur was not particularly wheelchair friendly. The hotel restaurant was down a flight of steps with no handrail. The pavements were uneven and had high kerbs. Fortunately, people were very friendly and came to my rescue.

This caring attitude could be disconcerting at times! Two women saw me struggling into a toilet one day. They followed me in, indicating the only Western-style toilet – all the others were Asian-style holes in the ground. There was no lock on the door and after a few minutes the younger woman came in and started pulling up my pants and trousers. It turned out they were Taiwanese tourists and in their country this assistance

would have been a mark of respect to an older person.

After three days we flew to Kota Kinabalu on the north coast of Borneo. There were romantic houses built on stilts on the beach, but the sand itself was pretty litter-strewn and the best place to swim was in the hotel pool.

A guide and a ranger took us on excursions in a minibus or in boats. We went to a nearby island in a boat and I was carried through the water at the other side. There were



Batik painting – one of Borneo’s traditional crafts

TOURISM MALAYSIA



Out of the blue: one of the highlights of Daphne’s trip was swimming in the sea

tables under shady trees beside a barbecue where crabs were being roasted. We had been provided with a packed lunch and, unfortunately, it didn’t occur to us to feed our sandwiches to the monkeys and sample the crabs instead!

It took an hour by speedboat to reach an island off Samarkand, where the turtles come to lay their eggs at night. A sandy beach had to be crossed and it was impossible to take the wheelchair. The guide made a stretcher to carry me across the sand. I lay on my back and looked up at the brilliant, tropical stars.

That night was spent in a chalet, which was up a steep flight of steps. The guide appeared whenever we needed to go up or down the steps and

he swam in the sea with us.

We spent another three days in Kuala Lumpur before making the journey home.

Despite the problems, I loved the holiday. It made me feel I can go anywhere, although I realise that much planning is needed and that I depend quite a bit on other people. The trip was wonderful and well worth the effort, if only for the experience of seeing the turtles and swimming in the warm, buoyant sea. I would definitely go again if there was a way of making the journey a bit more bearable.



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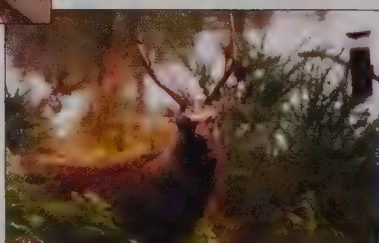


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Sushi and sake, tea and temples – Japan is a fascinating holiday destination, says Jacqueline Bramley

Journey to Japan

Last year I went to Japan on a trip organised by the charity Leonard Cheshire. I chose my friend David to be my escort as he is strong and won't stand any nonsense!

We travelled with Nippon Airways and were treated brilliantly by everyone. They couldn't have made us more comfortable. The flight took off without a hitch and we spent the 12 hours on the plane dozing, eating and watching films. Matsunaka from Leonard Cheshire's Hanshin Home was there at Osaka-Kansai airport to meet us when we got there.

The next day Matsunaka showed us round the home and we went to a pottery class. At lunch, we got our first sign of Japanese generosity and thoughtfulness when we were presented with flowers.

Everyone was amused to see David and me trying to eat with chopsticks – but we were quite good with them by the end of three weeks.

One day we visited a Buddhist temple, which was a fantastic sight, and we also



Bowled over: Jacqueline (left) drinking Japanese tea

went to a beautiful, traditional Japanese home, where we were given Japanese food to try: seaweed with rice, white radish, fried tofu and Japanese tea in a tea bowl.

The tour of the house included a look at the most exquisite kimonos. The family had a disabled daughter who used the Hanshin Home day centre. In a matter of three hours, we had made friends for life and I managed to use a little Japanese with the help of David's dictionary.

One evening we tried sushi. I ate raw salmon and eel and David tried most things but didn't really know what he was eating – the raw fish didn't

look all that appetising!

In the second week, we went to Tarazuka City and the Family Land park, where we saw white tigers.

Another day we went to Kobe with Yuki Kato, a girl who used to work as a volunteer at Leonard Cheshire in England but now lives in Japan.

Kobe had been completely destroyed in an earthquake three years before. To our amazement, it had been fully rebuilt and looks beautiful.

Our trip included a visit to a sake brewery, where the drink is made from rice, and

another day we saw Himeji-Jo Castle, which was stunning.

Near the end of our holiday, we were taken to Kyoto for the day to see the sights.

There was a temple with five towers which had amazing sculptures and statues. But the best sight was the Golden Temple, which was the most awesome thing I have ever seen – the memory of it will live with me for ever.

My three weeks in Japan were such a wonderful experience. I'm saving up now to return one day!

Jacqueline Bramley paid about £1,000 for her trip, which was organised by her Leonard Cheshire home. Jaltour has Japanese tours starting from £799, tel: 0207 495 1775.

Japan Travel Centre (flights only), tel: 0207 287 1388.



Kobe by night: the city has been rebuilt after an earthquake in 1995

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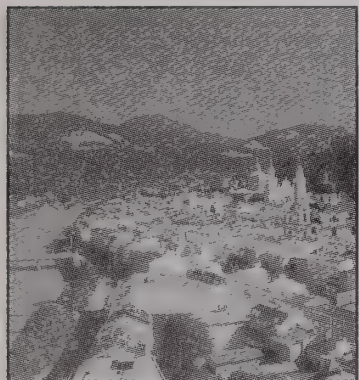


The hills are alive!

Undaunted by mountain roads and sustained by apple strudel, Mary Smith can't wait for her Adventure Club's next visit to Austria

It all started when a group of us decided that commercial holidays were too expensive and resolved to organise something for ourselves. A local firm produced a mobility coach with a wheelchair lift and clamps. The company had never been abroad before but was quite willing to give it a go.

The Adventure Club's first trip was to Austria, to a small village near Innsbruck. We did have a few problems, but everyone had a marvellous time and we learned a lot. After holidays in Italy and Spain, we decided to go back to Austria



OSTERREICH WERBUNG/ASCHER

Salzburg's picturesque rooftops

last year. We left Leicester in the pouring rain and it rained all the way to Dover. We managed to get on to an earlier ferry than the one we had booked and caused the usual chaos that occurs every time we

take a boat. The trouble is that by the time we have got nine wheelchairs down on our lift, then up on the ship's lift to the passenger deck, every other vehicle has parked and the ship has set sail.

Finally free of the boat, we travelled through France and Germany. The German motorways have great facilities for disabled people. We met a group of wheelchair users from Germany and tried to hold a



OSTERREICH WERBUNG/WEINHAUPL W

Now for that strudel: Mary Smith (left) and friends in Innsbruck

The crossing went well, with time for a visit to the café and shop. It can be a bit difficult to walk, so everyone is advised to bring a wheelchair.

The best fun is when we dock: we usually manage to create a traffic jam, because by the time we have loaded our coach, everyone else has gone and the other traffic is coming in. They then have to stop everything to let us off before we get completely stuck.

conversation, although my German is not that good. They had never seen a coach with a wheelchair lift before and were very impressed.

We arrived in Aachen on the first night at 6pm.

On the second day we travelled through Germany to the Ramada Hotel near Stuttgart, owned by Al Fayed. It's a very beautiful hotel and, though a bit expensive, it was quite an experience. Four of the



Out in Innsbruck: one of Austria's most beautiful towns

more adventurous of us tried to find a nightclub but couldn't. (We did manage to find our way back to the hotel.)

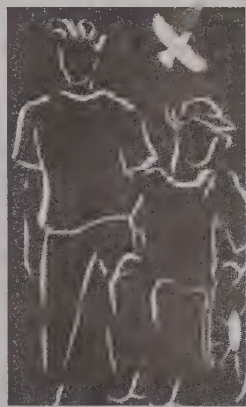
On the third day we travelled through Austria and it was still raining. We arrived at our village and, following the map, found our way to a narrow road up the mountain. The hotel was perched up there – very picturesque and right next to the ski lift.

Once settled in, we had a day in Kitzbühel, famous for its skiing and lots of interesting shops. We went to Innsbruck and through Salzburg to St Gillen. Most of us went on a boat over to St Wolfgang, which is quite good for wheelchairs. We walked round the village and for once the sun shone.

We ventured up in the ski lift, so high that you can see aeroplanes below you and everything looks like a map, and had delicious apple strudel in the café halfway down.

We travelled back through Belgium, managing to get lost. We got diverted because of floods but still reached our ferry. Here's to the next time!

The Leicestershire Disabled Adventure Club organises holidays in the UK and abroad every year – anyone can go along if they can be picked up *en route*. The Austrian trip cost about £395. For information, contact Mary Smith, tel: 0116-284 1960.



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Tel: 01208 872148 Fax: 01208 873377 E-mail: Churchtown@saqnet.co.uk

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Norfolk, Nar Valley Holiday Cottages

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool now being built.

More details and prices, contact: Rosemary on 01760 338797.

The Lake District, Windermere

Burn How Garden House Hotel situated in delightful garden setting with everything on the ground floor: bedrooms, restaurant, bar, lounges, patio and toilets – no steps! Parking outside each room. Come and relax in spacious bedrooms in peaceful setting only 2 minutes walk from lake and shops. Award winning food, highly commended for comfort cuisine and warm hospitality.

Telephone for brochure: (01539) 446226, fax: (01539) 447000, website: www.burnhow.co.uk e-mail: burnhowhotel@btinternet.com

WYE VALLEY Specialising in Holidays for Disabled People

Glorious valley & river views, 3 acre gardens, 3 lounges & conservatory. T.V./Radio all rooms. Menu choices. Physio, hairdresser.

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The Priory Res. Home, nr Tintern NPS 4TP

ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL NEAR NORWICH, NORFOLK

- ❖ Beautiful Elizabethan manor house
- ❖ Wheelchair accessible throughout
- ❖ Electric overhead hoists etc
- ❖ Friendly informal atmosphere
- ❖ Good food
- ❖ Special interest holiday brochure
- ❖ Summer and winter special offers

Tel: 01508 489324



Unfinished island: Malta is pretty, but there is much building going on

From the hotel sun deck I was able to count at least eight tower cranes, most of them in Malta's St Julian area where a good number of seafront hotels are located. Even the churches, of which there are many, seemed to have scaffolding embracing their domes. I gave up counting the number of unfinished high-rise blocks – in one instance, there was an occupied flat halfway up an incomplete ten-storey block.

It was one of those spur-of-the-moment holidays. You know the sort of thing: you're browsing through one of the many holiday brochures and your eye sees the words "disabled facilities" in a hotel description; if you're like me,

you re-evaluate the picture of the hotel and think: "How about it?"



Soak up the rays: Mike in the sun, but the wind can be chill in spring

After faxing and phoning the Hotel Victoria, Sliema, to seek assurances that it could cope with yours truly, and armed with much information on

Malta, my wife and I set off for, we hoped, three weeks of warm, Mediterranean, spring sunshine.

We departed at 7am from Peterborough railway station and were checking in at Gatwick by 9.15am. Not bad going, especially considering we had to contend with a taxi ride from King's Cross to Victoria in the rush hour.

The Hotel Victoria, despite its assurances, could only offer us a standard room which had

from the chair quite a struggle.

Apparently, if the hotel has a level entrance, level access to public rooms and lifts to upper floors, that constitutes being suitable for disabled people. Oh, and there was a disabled loo adjacent to the restaurant, the door of which was prevented from fully opening inwards because the hand basin was immediately behind the door. Heigh ho!

The literature we had obtained from the Maltese Information Bureau admitted that "Malta is a challenge for the disabled visitor". I would not argue with that, but our visit was still an experience. There is much to see: we were there for the annual pre-Lent carnival. A lot of buildings are accessible and I was assured that more are being improved. It is hilly, but there are level promenades with views of dramatic rocky beaches. The

sea is blue and it is lovely to sit and watch the world go by.

Transport is very cheap. We paid £50 for a four-hour taxi drive taking in Mosta, Mdina and Rabat and we enjoyed a harbour boat trip which was very interesting and good value.

For getting about, the extra expense of a self-drive hire car is worth considering – providing you can find somewhere to park it. The orange badge is accepted by the Maltese Islands on the same basis as in the UK.

Would I go again? I don't think so. The people were charming and most anxious to please; the hotel personnel went to a lot of trouble – the bed was raised on bricks and a shower chair and raised toilet seat were provided for a fee. My wife would go again, if only to be kissed – on both cheeks – by all the swarthy waiters and hotel staff on our departure.

Malta Tourist Office, tel: 0207-292 4900.

In mid-July to end August 2000, two weeks at the Victoria would cost about £609 for bed and breakfast, including flights. Belleair Holidays, tel: 0208-785 3266.

Newly opened - attractive farm
in unspoiled valley with accessible forest roads on doorstep. Cat. 1 spec', 2 bedroom self-catering flat, pet & eco-friendly.
Gubhill Farm, Ae, Dumfries, SW Scotland.
Tel/fax: 01387 860648

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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purpose built for wheelchair access with level access. En-suite facilities with all 'mod cons' to the highest standard. Situated on a highland working croft 4 miles from Inverness. It makes an ideal touring base.

Further information 01463 731455

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Modern, purpose-built self-catering cottage. Ground floor accommodation for up to 2 people with disabilities. Scan 700 beds; Clos-o-Mat. Overhead track hoist bedroom-to-bathroom. Up to 4 carers/family/friends on 1st floor. Awarded Grade 1 by Holiday Care Service. Open all year. Low rates Winter and Spring. Information and bookings: Mr WGH Tickner, The Lin Berwick Trust.

Tel: 0181-595 7056

Registered Charity No. 803172

HOLIDAY FLATS FOR DISABLED GUESTS
at Par in Cornwall, which is run by Scope. Each flat sleeps 6 – 1 guest must be disabled. New showers, suitable for wheelchairs. Vacancies April £60 pw, May and Sept' £95 pw. Reg. Charity No. 221875.

Contact the Manager, tel: (01579) 344108

CAN^{be}DONE

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When accessibility counts for so much, look no further!!
Our 2000 brochure is out now offering better value than ever.

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New holidays for this year include the untapped regions of New York State, coach tours to Spain, Holland and Israel.

Phone, fax, write or e-mail for your copy of the 2000 brochure.

CAN BE DONE LIMITED

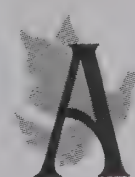
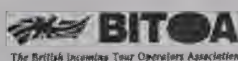
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Flights to Italy, Tenerife, Lanzarote, Malaga, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve, Malta, Rhodes and Florida.

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Please send a Brochure to: _____

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd,
6, The Hillock, Astley, Lancs,
M29 7GW. Tel: 01942 888844.

DN1/00



Send your holiday experiences to DN at the address on page 2.

North West Wales Peninsula

Olde Worlde cottage, 3 bedrooms, wheelchair accessible. Beams and modern comfort. Open all year. Visit our website: www.rhydolion.co.uk, or contact Mrs C Morris, tel: 01758 712342 for colour brochure

Accessible Accommodations Abroad

Wheelchair accessible villas, apartments and hotels in Europe and worldwide. Also cruises and tailor-made travel.

Call TravelAbility
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All at sea this winter?



Our unique ship the LORD NELSON is specially designed so that both physically disabled and able-bodied voyagers can enjoy the adventure of crewing a tall ship together. No experience is necessary.

Special facilities include:

- Flat, wide decks with Unwin fixing points and low level fittings for wheelchair users.
- Lifts between decks.
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- A well-stocked bar!

For further information please contact:

Jubilee Sailing Trust, Jubilee Yard, Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 7GB
www.jst.org.uk Email jst@jst.org.uk
Fax 02380 449145 Tel 02380 449138.
Bursaries are available.

Reg Charity No. 277810

WELCOME ABOARD

You can join our sunshine voyages
island hopping in the Canaries

Stuck for ideas or want some practical holiday hints? Dan Batten suggests where you could go for help

No matter where you're off to on holiday this year, give Holiday Care a call. The people there can help with almost any problem you might face when planning a holiday, from finding a carer to accompany you to checking whether or not that five-star hotel you've seen in a brochure is accessible. They can even find you somewhere different to go if you're sick of the beach.

Information is free; sometimes postage is charged.

The charity Tripscope is another mine of invaluable information. It can advise you on international, national and local travel over the phone. The best thing is that its pearls of wisdom won't cost you a penny more than the price of your phone call.

If you're thinking of getting a tan in Tenerife, but don't want to drag equipment with you, call Orange Badge Machine. They hire out a variety of useful things, including electric and manual wheelchairs, and walking and toileting aids. They'll pick you up from the airport and take you on a tour of the island as well.



Hideaway: the Tower of Hallbar

DAVID HENRIE

Tips for your trips

If it's a tour you fancy, then Dales Discovery might have what you're after. From a trip to see one of Shakespeare's works performed at the Globe in London through to deer watching in the Scottish Highlands, there's something for everyone.

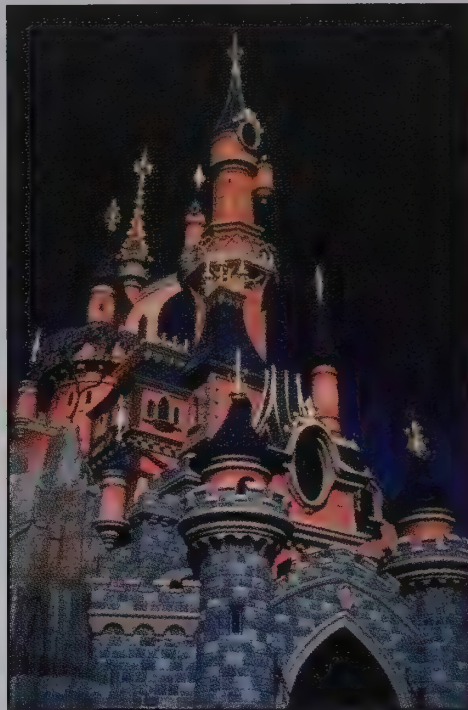
A retreat to a cottage in Scotland sounds good. One to an accessible cottage sounds even better. Accommodation at the Tower of Hallbar in Lanarkshire has just been renovated by Vivat Trust Holidays. Available from March, it is set in five acres of ancient orchards and meadows and includes a wheel-in shower, adjustable-height basin and adapted toilet. It also has low-level light switches.

Fancy a canal cruise? Take a look at the Red Feather, a six-berth luxury barge run by Rocliffe Manor Leonard Cheshire home which takes you around the Leicester Ring for a week. It has space for two wheelchair users, hydraulic lifts to get you on and off the barge and an adapted shower room.

The barge can be booked between April and October.

What about a couple of weeks off for those who don't always get the recognition they should? CaresAway organises trips abroad just for carers. Holidays fly from most regional airports.

Can Be Done's brochure for 2000 is out now. It covers a wide range of accessible trips, including holidays to London, Disneyland Paris and further afield.



Castles in the air: try Disneyland Paris

Factfile

Can Be Done, tel: 0208-907 2400.
CaresAway, tel: (01452) 740820.
Dales Discovery, tel: (01756) 797612.
Holiday Care, tel: (01293) 774535, minicom: (01293) 776943.
Orange Badge Machine, tel/fax: 00 34 922 79 73 55.
Rocliffe Manor Cheshire Home, tel: (01509) 890855.
Tripscope, tel: 0208-994 9294.
Vivat Trust Holidays, tel: 0207-930 8030.

LLETY MIERI LLANDEILO, WEST WALES
3 charming award-winning cottages, designed for wheelchair users and their families. Peaceful rural location overlooked by Dinorwic Castle. Each warm and well equipped cottage sleeps 4. Extensive grounds and games room. Open all year. Short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558 823 059) for brochure.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE
Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 2000. Call or fax Ed Passant on 0181 885 4971 or e-mail: ed.passant@dia1.pipex.com

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson**. Tel (01924) 454300.

Situated in peaceful Strath Ascaig
5 ensuite rooms - 2 suitable for disabled guests. £25 dinner, B&B till end of March. From 1 April, £23 B&B per person. Tel/fax: 01599 572219. e-mail: soluisbrae@tra.ac.uk www.freenetpages.co.uk/soluis

DALES/LAKES - Spacious self-catering cottage for 6 with level access 2 acre garden. G/F bedroom en-suite with shower chair. Ravenstonedale, a pretty tranquil village has 3 accessible pubs. Brochure Sally Cannon 01539 623230

Near Salisbury - newly converted stable block self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. Aiming for Cat. 2 ETB. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Opens Dec' 1999. **01722 328954**

CAREFREE HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE & SPAIN
Summers in France, winters in Spain Time to relax and forget about rain Fully wheelchair accessible accommodation Minibus for transfers and daily excursions Good home cooking and complementary wine with meals
For brochure on French & Spanish holidays contact Pat & John Bartlam, 40 Rue St Eloi, 79440 Courlay, France. Tel/Fax: 00335 49722537

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL
Lots of villas, farmhouses, bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do. Contact: David Player Tel: 00 351 89 393636 Fax: 00 351 89 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt
www.player.pt

The Pines, Bishop's Castle
offers self-catering holiday accommodation in an attractive and recently refurbished, specially adapted house in the south Shropshire countryside. The accommodation is suitable for families and groups of up to 24 people. The nightly charges are £12 per person for groups of 1-9 £10 per person for groups of 10-15 £8 per person for 15+
For further information telephone (01588) 638234.

SHOREFIELD COUNTRY PARK
Downton, Hampshire:
Award winning coastal site with indoor/outdoor pools; sports/leisure facilities; restaurants and bars. Wheelchair accessible, fully equipped 1/2 bedroom chalets, sleep 4-6.
Call: **K. Pepper on 01590 642866**
New Forest Mencap Charity No. 1038962.

SCOPE IN IPSWICH/ EAST SUFFOLK
Holidays for the disabled and carers. 5/6 berth caravan 400 yards from Felixstowe sea front and promenade. Details and bookings for 2000, please contact: Jim Bone, 20 Victoria Street, Felixstowe IP11 7EW, Tel: (01394) 282288.

CENTRAL BRITTANY FARMHOUSES
with excellent ground floor facilities for wheelchair users. Resident English owner. For brochure contact Peter Davies, 94 Church Road, Stretton, Burton upon Trent DE13 0HE. Tel: (01283) 543743
Late bookings accepted

NORTH CUMBRIA
Cosy/well equipped lakeside lodges (2 b'room). Idyllic, peaceful & wonderful nature. Wheelchair friendly lodge and walks around lake & private nature reserve. Free use of wheely boat. Great fly fishing.
The Tranquil Otter
01228 576661

The Algarve, Portugal. Small hotel owned and run by English family. Home from home, small & friendly, all home cooked food, diets catered for. All bedrooms ensuite. Our own swimming pool and bowling centre. For brochure and flights with ATOL agents, tel: **01235 521804**

Blagdon Farm Country Holidays
Devon/Cornwall border
Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities including indoor heated pool. Take-away meals delivered and equipment loan available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.
For colour brochure please contact: Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm, Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF. Phone: 01409 211509. Fax 01409 211510.

DRYSLADE FARM - FOREST OF DEAN
Very spacious, warm, well equipped ground floor flat on friendly, family working farm. No steps. At door parking. Well recommended for accompanied wheelchair users.
Tel/Fax: **01594 860259**

WINGED FELLOWSHIP TRUST
New discovery holidays worldwide.
Overseas holidays for people with physical disabilities. Destinations include: Sri Lanka, Israel, Egypt, Tenerife, Spain, Paris and Jersey. Prices include flights, travel in adapted vehicles, accessible accommodation, nurse/couriers/volunteers. All destinations accessible. Brochure from Louise Keen: 0171 833 4579 ext 122.

Farnham, Surrey
only an hour from London.
Two self-catering flats in garden setting, perfect for wheelchair users. Category 1. Sleep 5 and 2.
Tel: **01252 715589** for brochure.

Beautiful West Dorset
Luxury ground floor flat near Lyme Regis. Sleeps 4 (or 4 and baby). Cat. 2 National Accessible Scheme, 3 keys highly commended by ETB. Situated on 5 star holiday park with shop and recreational facilities. Telephone: **Wood Farm Caravan Park 01297 560431**

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL
"Holiday Care Award Winners"
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617

Millennium prices now available. "Hacienda-el-Miguel" the Costa Blanca. Disabled friendly holiday apartment for up to 6. Suitable for 4 adults plus 2 children (max). Ring or write soon to avoid disappointment. Mick Benford, Holben, 6 Chaston Place, Kettering, Northants, NN16 9TF, tel: (01536) 523591, e-mail: benfordmichael@hotmail.com

LINDETH HOWE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL
Set in six acres of beautiful grounds overlooking Lake Windermere. Recently re-opened after major extension & redevelopment.
New colour brochure 015394 45759
email: lindeth.howe@kencomp.net

5 Star self catering cottages on animal park in North Wales. Fully wheelchair accessible with all services for disabled people, 2 miles from the beach. Three quarters hour drive from Snowdonia National Park. 01407 711433.

Bonneuil Holiday Cottages
- Designed for people with disabilities in mind -
Own an idyllic holiday cottage in rural south west France. Bonneuil Holiday Cottages is a unique UK owned farmstead development project - site to include 6 cottages, large covered swimming pool, river fishing and tennis courts.
For further details contact: Bonneuil Holiday Cottages, 53 Woodville Road, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4AE.

JUBILEE LODGE - Essex
Purpose built holiday centre. Epping Forest, Cambridge. Southend nearby. 26 single en-suite rooms, 6 twin rooms. CTV. Motorized hoists. Bar. Conservatory. Coffee lounge. Visits/entertainment included. Help buttons. Nurses/volunteer support. Social Services registered. From £270 pw. For brochure call: 0171 833 4579 ext. 132

BRYN MEIRION GUEST HOUSE, Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL74 8SR
Tel: 01248 853118
Family run guest house, situated on a superb coastal site with panoramic views. Has been adapted along with the landscape gardens to cater for wheelchair user. TV lounge, dining room and en-suite bedrooms on the ground floor. Two new additional specialised units with electric beds and hoists. Special diets catered for. Winter breaks Oct-Nov/Jan-Feb, 3 nights for the price of 2.
There is always a warm welcome at Bryn Meirion

Caravan for families with disabled young child.
Fully equipped to sleep 5 adults and 1 child. Situated at Seahouses, Northumberland. Fully accessible with ramp, wide doors and toilet/shower area. New for 2000 season. For further details call St Omer Trust on **0151 924 4320**

Peak District National Park
NAS Cat.2 accessible Cottage by the Pond for 6, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full central heating. TB highly commended 4 keys. Special out of season breaks. www.cressbrook.co.uk/ashborn/beechn Tel/fax: 01335 310274 E-mail: beechenhill@btinternet.com

The Lyneal Trust (Reg. Charity)
provides canal and canalside holidays in Shropshire on two specially built canal boats with ramps, hydraulic lift and steering. Facilities also include canalside accommodation for up to 16 people. Day trips on canal also available. Telephone: 01588 638234, Website: www.white.mcmill.com/lyneal

SCOTTISH BORDERS
Self-catering holiday cottages of highest standard tucked away in the peace and quiet of the beautiful Rule Water valley. Totally wheelchair accessible. Tel/Fax (01450) 860678

Win!

Write about your holiday...

Have you ever had a holiday that was so amazing you just can't forget it?

How would you like to use that memory to win yourself a break in London, courtesy of the charity Winged Fellowship?

They are offering a £500 weekend for two (Friday and Saturday night with two breakfasts and two dinners) at the Copthorne Tara hotel in Kensington, west London – close to Kensington Gardens, Knightsbridge, the museums on the Cromwell Road and theatres in the West End. You could treat yourself to a show, a shopping spree in Harrods and a bit of sightseeing, too.

All you have to do is write 350 words about your favourite holiday and send them to *DN* at the address on page 2. You can send your article typed, handwritten, on disk or dictated on to a tape.

Your holiday could be in this country or abroad; it could be by yourself or with others; it could be independent

travel or a package tour – it's entirely up to you.

Send your piece by 31 January: the winning story will appear in the March issue.

The four-star Copthorne Tara hotel upgraded its specially adapted rooms in 1999 and it now has ten available for disabled guests. Six have wheel-in showers and two are fitted with a hoist. There is full air conditioning with low-level controls.

You'll find the Copthorne Tara a really relaxing hotel, ideal for a fun weekend in the capital.



London luxury: Copthorne Tara is ideally located for sightseeing

Competition rules

- Competition is open to disabled people over the age of 18
- UK entrants only
- No cash alternatives
- Competition not open to staff or associates of *DN* or Winged Fellowship
- Editor's decision is final
- Prize includes breakfast and a *table d'hôte* dinner (exclusive of beverages) on both days
- Prize is valid for a year but is subject to availability

...and win a break in London!



Sit back and relax: one of the hotel's newly adapted rooms



If you don't win this time, you can still book a break at Copthorne Tara. Contact Holiday Care, 2nd floor, Imperial Buildings, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7PZ, tel: (01293) 773716. Winged Fellowship provides holidays in the UK and abroad for people with physical disabilities. Its brochures for 2000 are now available, tel: 0207-833 2594.

Newlands Guest House, Reydon Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6NR
New for 2000 - purpose built wheelchair accessible suites. All rooms en-suite, tv, evening meals by arrangement. Ample carparking, large garden. For details
tel: 01502 722164, fax: 01502 724696
www.southwold.blythweb.co.uk/newlands

Shaftesbury, Dorset. Award winning holiday cottages.
cat 1, 2 and 3. Working family farm in beautiful countryside. "Best views in Dorset", tremendous character, log fires, C.H. old beams. Accessible swimming, some aids and support services available. Colour brochure.
Mrs Sue Smart, Hartgrove Farm, Hartgrove, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0JY, tel: 01747 811830, fax: 01747 811066, e-mail: cottages@hartgrove.demon.co.uk

Great self-catering in South West Wales
Sŵn-y-Gwynt Cottage
Sleeps 4, fabulous views, flawless luxury. TV, linen, power all included
Tel: 01267 237261
E-mail: antony.griew@virgin.net
Accessibility Grade 1



GALWAY BAY - REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Brandy Harbour cottage apartments. 2 luxury 2-bed apartments. One wheelchair accessible, on sea front in scenic area. 20 mins from city of Galway. Ideal for touring the West of Ireland.
Irish Tourist Board 3 Star.
Tel: 00 35391 796491

The Old Mill Farmhouse, Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd
B&B, EM - Open 12 months. 7 delightful en-suite cottage-style units, 1 with wheel-in shower, seat and grab-rails. Easy parking, level access. Beautiful scenery and home cooking.
Tel/fax: 01766 540397

ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL
Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person and their family. We have full disabled facilities and are able to cater for organised parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on to a private garden with conservatory and have breathtaking sea views. Private car park with unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year
Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2
Special 3-4 day breaks Nov-April. Discount for group bookings. Tel: (01803) 313457

CALL RICHARD GRESHAM TO FIND OUT HOW TO PLACE YOUR HOLIDAY ADVERT IN FEB OR MARCH, TEL: 0207 619 7336.

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Introducing THE ALL NEW Renault Kangoo REAR ACCESS CONVERSION

PROBABLY THE BEST KANGOO CONVERSION AVAILABLE

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Motability*

Constables LTD


Dept. DN, Freepost (BR1032), Mountney Bridge Business Park, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5BR

Tel: 01323-757574

Fax: 01323-767603

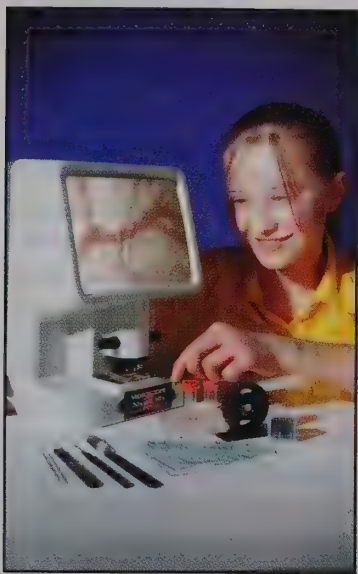
* This is a trademark of Motability: registered charity number 299745

Bright ideas

 Calling all biology types! Do you ever get cheesed off staring at your slides through a silly little lens? Well, squint no more: use a VideoScope.


This cool gadget contains a microscope which blows up whatever matter you put on your slide on to an 8in (21cm) backlit screen. You'll get close up to whatever you're examining, with magnification of up to 50 times to get all those minute details.

£24 from the Brainwaves catalogue, tel: 0870-908 7019.




VideoScope: larger than life


Quote reference RR1438 when ordering.

 Hot on the heels of their recent phone guide, Ricability have produced two more invaluable consumer guides.

Wheeled Walking Frames looks at a variety of walking aids priced between £34 and £250, while *Bath Boards and Seats* checks out a range of equipment to make bathing more blissful.

To obtain these pearls of wisdom, send a large SAE with 40p of stamps for one report (and 20p for each additional one) to Ricability, 24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX.

 If you use a DynaVox communication aid, you know what a chore it is putting a new subject page on to your machine. A new website may take away hours of creating your own custom pages – now you can download a ready-made one for free instead. You can then tinker with to customise it if you need to. The page offers links to other DynaVox facilities – you can chat to other users, for instance. Visit the website <http://members.aol.com/dd4kids/dynavox.html>


 Is your kitchen layout a recipe for chaos? Maybe something from

This month, Dan Batten has suggestions for everyone from scientists to chefs

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DN1/00

Feast your eyes

Plain coffee, one penny; with milk and a biscuit, 1½ pennies. No, I haven't just found the ultimate bargain: these are prices in a 17th century coffee shop. It is part of the *London Eats Out* exhibition at the Museum of London, covering 500 years of eating out.

The Museum of London is one of my favourite museums. I know how much they have always considered the needs of all their visitors. Over the years, they have become even more aware and improvements are



MUSEUM OF LONDON

A modern-day cafe sign

made constantly. The first thing I noticed at this exhibition was the improvement in the siting and lettering both of information panels and description cards. Only one,



Part of a coffee house tile panel. Found in Baxter's Coffee Rooms, 66 Brick Lane, and thought to be from an early 18th century coffee house there.

with white lettering on terracotta paper, was difficult to read. There's plenty of room to move around the five pavilions, each covering one of five centuries and linked by paintings, etchings and photos.

Centuries ago, poor people without cooking facilities relied on street vendors, cookshops and taverns for a hot meal of sorts. The cookshop with its

small 16th century bread oven provides a colourful display of typical food. Some people took their own food there to be cooked.

At the other extreme, one pavilion shows a replica of the Drapers' Company feast held in 1566, complete with swan pie (dressed with feathers to look alive and costing seven shillings each), heron, venison, jellies, custards and sweetmeats (apparently, some members lent their own silver for the occasion!). Beautiful silver gilt plate has been lent by today's Livery Companies – so you get a good idea of what the table looked like.

Wafts of smells come from the various pavilions. Most

"A cup of chocolate with egg yolk, milk and sugar was expensive at four pence!"

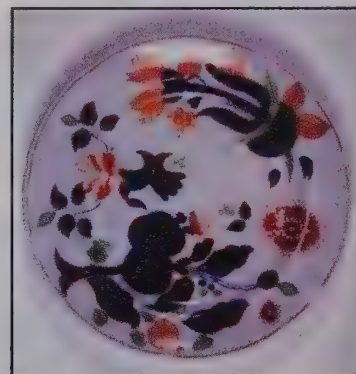
noticeable is the smell of chocolate from the only surviving interior of an 18th century coffee house. A cup of chocolate with egg yolk, milk and sugar was expensive at four pence!

By 1772, street vendors were selling sausage and bread or a piece of gingerbread for one

Anne Davies takes her taste buds on a tour of London's eating out habits and finds things have changed over the centuries ...

penny. You can see a piece of gingerbread which was bought at the last Thames Frost Fair in 1814 and a currant bun baked on 29 January 1820 to mark the accession of George IV.

Even more interesting are the shells and stones from fruit and nuts eaten by playgoers at the



Dinner plate from The London Tavern, c.1830. The Tavern was renowned for its excellent wine.

Rose Theatre and a Tudor banana recently found in a Southwark excavation.

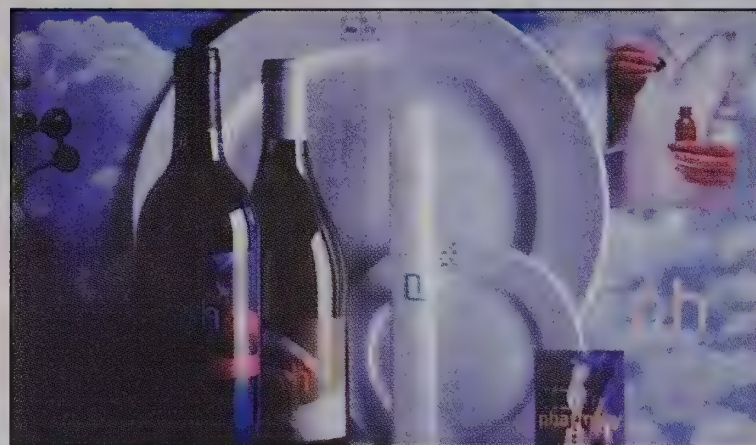
There are exhibits to touch and in the centre of the exhibition there is a computer



Hot pudding seller, a water-colour by Paul Sandby, 1759. The seller's barrow probably had a fire inside to keep the puddings hot, while a harness attached the handles to his body, leaving him free to serve.

five periods up to today.

A fascinating exhibition – I shall definitely go back before it closes in February. Just fancy: £1 in 1770 would be worth £57 today, but the only way to get



Items from pharmacy, a restaurant opened in 1998 by a partnership which included the artist Damien Hirst, whose work set the tone.

station with space for a wheelchair where you can bring up details of the exhibits.

Menus and bills (including dinner at a hotel for 11 people in 1879, costing £5.15s) cover

pure milk was from cows in St James's Park and the Mall – from street vendors it was likely to be dirty and contaminated.

Do visit this exhibition – you'll enjoy it.

London Eats Out is on at the Museum of London until 27 February, tel: 0207 600 3699. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.50 and Sun 12.00-17.50. Admission is £5 or £3 for concessions.

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After last month's look at acting, Rod Hermeston moves behind the camera and finds out how you get into TV production

The producers

Esther Appleyard will soon see her work on telly, because she has just had a taste of making a TV programme for Channel 4.

Esther's three-minute film *Tattoo* is among eight films made with the involvement of disabled people, which Channel 4 plans to show at 7.55pm on weekdays from 27 March (times to be confirmed).

It is all part of a Channel 4 project TV FOUR ALL Production Course, which provided disabled people with a short stint of training at Channel 4 and experience of making films in September. Most of the films were not about disability.

Esther, 24, says: "Before this I did not have any experience in the industry, but I am really interested in broadcasting now."

Channel 4 hopes to run the scheme again this year – it looks as though opportunities in television and radio production are finally opening up for disabled people.

Production can involve a range of skills. A producer, for instance, may be involved in thinking up ideas for a programme, finding and researching stories and finding people to appear in the programmes. They might also be involved in instructing camera crews and working with the editing team on the finished product. They probably begin their career as a researcher.

Ian Macrae, editor at the BBC's Disability Programmes Unit (DPU), is keen to see more disabled people in such posts.

"If you can get more disabled people into the

industry then inevitably you will have more disabled people appropriately represented on the screen," he says.

So how do you get in?

Lindsay Knight, manager of the Broadcasters' Disability Network (BDN) which tries to increase opportunities on and off the screen, says it is vital to get experience.

"You do not necessarily need a degree in the media, but it helps if you have worked in hospital radio," she says.

There are degrees and short courses covering production. You can get information about them from an organisation called Skillset.

The BBC has two Production Training Schemes each year, run by the DPU. Training lasts two years and the wage is £16,140.

Trainees make short items for the DPU programme *From the Edge*, then do stints on other radio or television shows.

The BBC also has a national scheme called Extend. This provides 30 work placements in programme making, paying £145 a week for three months. It hopes to run the scheme again in 2000. Applications would be needed in late spring.

The organisation Mediable may also be able to arrange production placements for students and graduates.

But Mark Weston, Mediable co-ordinator, warns that it is difficult to get into smaller production companies, which make many programmes for independent stations.

"They do not have the time

Behind the scenes

Colin Hughes (right), 34, is a producer on BBC2's *Despatch Box* and on radio programmes.

After university, Colin, who has muscular dystrophy, wrote for newspapers without getting paid.

In 1990 he got a job as a researcher for BBC Radio 4's *Does He Take Sugar?* and then became a producer on the show.

He says production can be suited to disabled people: "Much of the assembling of television and radio programmes is done on computers. There is not much physical effort involved."



Factfile

BBC Extend, contact Andrew Jeffrey, tel: 0191-244 1296.
Broadcasters' Disability Network, tel: 0207 403 3020.
Channel 4, contact Alison Walsh, tel: 0171-306 8125.
DPU, tel: 0208 752 4993.
Mediable, tel: 0208 2864107, e-mail: mweston@glyndon.demon.co.uk
Skillset, tel: 0207 534 5300, or visit: www.skillset.org

Training time

Jonathan Bell has been with the DPU Production Training Scheme since July.

Jonathan, 34, who became paraplegic after being injured in the army, got experience on university radio. He is enjoying the training scheme.

"You are completely involved in every stage of television production," he says. "You research it. You produce and direct it and then help edit it. You are surrounded by a team who can help and offer advice."

"This is the most fantastic opportunity for anybody trying to get into production," he adds.

He hopes to go on to BBC Radio 4's *You and Yours* as a researcher for the next part of his training.

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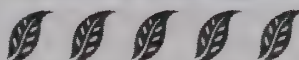


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Producing the goods: Esther Appleyard's film will soon be on TV

to supervise people," he says.

To help disabled people, the BDN has information about openings in broadcasting. And to help companies wanting to use disabled people, it will be setting up an internet database of disabled people qualified or working in broadcasting within the next 18 months. Channel 4

already has such a database for its own programme makers.

So, opportunities are now emerging on both sides of the camera – broadcasters are taking notice of disabled people. It could be a good time to have a go.

Posts are often advertised in DN. Look out in future issues.



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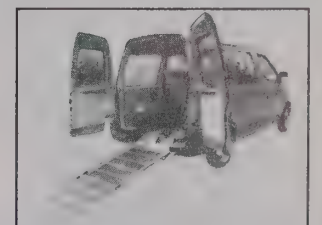
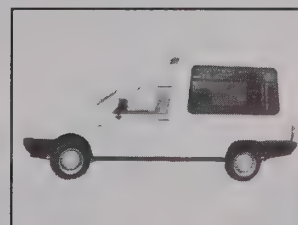
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Tel: 01626 853050

'Would we get support in France?'

What is the system like for disabled children across the Channel? American mum Rosemary Launay found out first-hand

When our daughter Melissa was born with Down's syndrome, we felt the same shock that all families who have children with special needs feel – except that, as an American married to a Frenchman, the information I got from my family back in the States about the wonderful programmes there deepened my dismay. Would I find the same sort of support in France?

Eleven years on, we can report that Melissa has done very well in the French system. We know many families whose children with Down's syndrome and other disabilities have done as well, if not better. This sort of "success story" is not exceptional in France.

At four months, Melissa started at a centre which



En vacances: (left to right) Steven, Rosemary, Melissa and Patrick

provides therapy for children aged 0-20 years and is covered by French social security.

At two, we opted for a programme which sends therapists to work for short periods with the child in the home, day-care centre or school, with the costs again covered by social security. This service was a godsend, providing speech therapy, psychomotor therapy (a way of improving a child's spatial awareness, thanks to which Melissa knows her left from her right better than I do and can write in a neat script) and

special educators who helped her with social and life skills. We feel fortunate to have had such a service without having to pay for it, which is not always the case in the US.

Melissa was mainstreamed into the "Maternelle" (French pre-school) for four years, where she learned good social, pre-reading and pre-writing skills, and the other children learned an important lesson in tolerance.

Normal primary school was not a realistic option, so she now goes to a special education class in an ordinary French

school, where teachers with special education qualifications give individual attention to the 5-12 children in their class. Melissa is in her fifth year there and has made great strides.

At 11½, she is at a crossroads. Once she leaves the primary school system, the alternatives are a vocational middle school or a special education school. We have chosen the latter solution and since Melissa started going there this September (three half days a week, with the rest of her time spent at school in her special class), we can say that this was a good move. In this special education school, with two adults for five children, Melissa can participate in activities like pottery and swimming. Once she is there full-time, she will also do more academic subjects.

We see her continuing in this sort of special education structure until she is 18 or 20, then working in a protected workshop and living in a group home. We will have to stay informed and be Melissa's advocate, but we believe these are realistic goals in France.

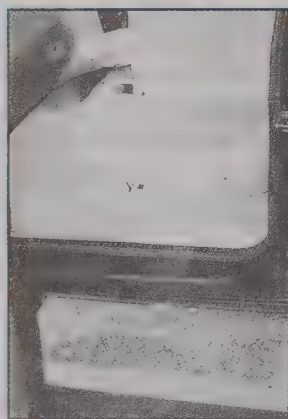
In the meantime, I intend to remain very much involved in

disability issues in France, in both the French-speaking and English-speaking communities.

Of particular interest is the group I am involved in, SPRINT Parents' Action Network (SPAN), which tries to help English-speaking parents of children with special needs to find the most appropriate medical, therapeutic and educational attention for their child in France. We offer information through a helpline and have compiled a 30-page document – *Finding Help for Your Special Needs Child in France* – giving information about services available here.

Through research and lots of networking, it becomes obvious that there are an incredible number of services available to people with special needs in France, but the information is not always readily accessible. Our group and booklet aims to help people access that information more quickly and more efficiently.

For details of SPAN, contact Rosemary Launay at 30 ave de l'Alliance, 95600 Eaubonne, France, e-mail: launayspan@aol.com, tel: 00 33 01 39 59 10 64.



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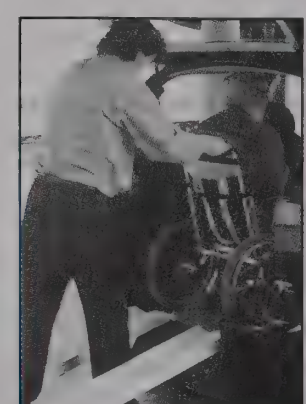
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Give it a Go – Make a Difference in the New Millennium

Scope, NICOD and Capability Scotland have recently announced the first recipients of an exciting new award scheme to enable disabled people to 'give it a go' and fulfil a personal ambition.



Above: Information is available in a variety of formats as well as standard print.

Top left: Wesley Kerr of BBC's 'Watchdog Health Check' with Colin Hicks, a member of Scope's campaigns network and Paul Hendry of LWT's 'Don't Try This at Home', at the Give it a Go Millennium Awards press launch.

Over 500 grants, financed by the Millennium Commission, will be awarded over the next three years. If you have the energy and enthusiasm to do something practical for yourself and the community, then this is your opportunity to make a difference with a 'Give it a Go Millennium Award'.

Ideas and imagination are the key. The possibilities are limitless.

'Mouse on the Move' is one of the exciting projects to receive an award and will enable a disabled dancer to form the first local integrated dance group led by a disabled person.

Another award, "A New Beginning", will involve a disabled gardener building a demonstration allotment to inspire other members of the community to make better sustainable use of land.

Who gets a grant?

Grants are on offer to disabled people who have an idea for an individual project that will involve and benefit their local community. Anyone with a physical, sensory or learning disability living in the UK and over the age of 16 can apply.

What kinds of projects are eligible?

Projects must be completed within one year and fall into one of the following four broad categories:

Personal goals and community development involving learning a new skill and providing service to the local community.

Making and influencing community decisions to effect local change.

Environmental improvement to make a difference to the local environment.

Disability equality projects to challenge prejudice and open minds.

What funding is available?

Grants are for all costs needed to complete your project, between £2000 - £8000.

Mentoring, enabling and support costs can be included. The award should not affect benefit entitlement.

What is the next step?

If you think this is for you and your community, call 0808 800 3333 free for an information pack and comprehensive guidance notes.

An interpreter can be provided for people who have

English as a second language, and information is available in a variety of formats, including large print, Braille and tape.

People who need help to complete the application form can arrange a visit from a local member of staff.

Colin Hicks, a wheelchair user who supported the launch of the scheme says: "I would urge anyone with a disability to apply for the scheme. It's a great opportunity. So often the environment we live in stops disabled people from having a go at things. Well, here's an opportunity to change that."

BECOME A MEMBER FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Scope is looking to extend its membership in the new millennium. Become a member of Scope and join Britain's leading disability organisation. You can swap information and opinions with members around the country and keep up to date with the latest information.

Individual membership was introduced in September 1997 to enable individuals to have their say in the future direction and policy of Scope at local and national level. Membership is primarily aimed at disabled people, their families and carers to encourage them to take part in the plans and activities of 'their' Scope.

The network of membership is growing steadily and is already having a positive and dynamic impact on the organisation. Scope's conference organiser, Rose Muller, spoke of

the effects of individual membership on Scope's Annual Conference and AGM: "The conference was led by the voices and experiences of disabled people. All the speakers were disabled and there were over 350 delegates, mostly disabled people, their families and their carers, sharing their experiences, hopes and concerns at the conference. The agenda set at the conference by these disabled people will play a vital role in developing Scope's work."

The membership scheme is still a new venture for Scope and

will develop over the next few years. Rose Muller says, "Join as a member now and you can influence Scope's development in the year 2000 and beyond."

The Benefits of Membership

- A voice and influence at a national level including a vote at the Annual General Meeting and the opportunity to stand, nominate and vote for members of Scope's Executive Council.
- Involvement at a local level through your local Scope Partnership Committee and the chance to influence Scope's plans and priorities in your area by standing for election and voting for representatives.
- A welcome pack, membership card and regular updated news about Scope.
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Now, the newspaper for everyone with a disability, sent to you every month.

- Opportunities for discounts on everyday goods and services, including insurance, gas and electricity.
- Dedicated membership staff to answer your questions and offer you support.

As membership grows, Scope will be investigating further benefits to the scheme and would be interested to hear your opinions on the role of membership within the organisation. For more information or to speak to dedicated membership staff, please call 020 7619 7222.



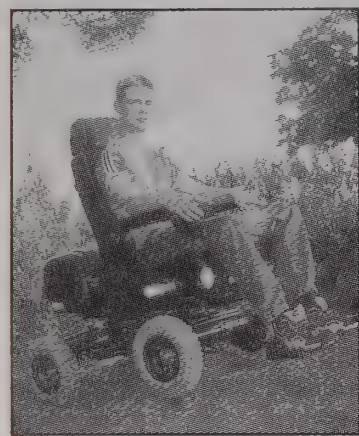
Simon Stevens, individual member of Scope, speaking at Scope's 1999 Annual Conference

DN motoring correspondent David Griffiths spent an exhausting three days at the Reha '99 exhibition in Düsseldorf

Reha's claim to be the largest exhibition in the world for disabled people is irrefutable: the 1999 event in November was held in five huge halls at the International Exhibition Centre in Düsseldorf and was crammed with over 900 stands.

What an atmosphere this generates. Reha was teeming with visitors from China, Japan, Sweden, Latvia, Finland and Russia – even the odd Englishman and his wife...

Most of an afternoon was needed to explore the splendid holiday section. Packed with ideas, offers and equipment, it seethed with visitors, and you could discuss your needs with



The Finnish Four X

knowledgeable staff, some of whom were disabled.

My attention was drawn to a huge vehicle resembling a participant in some great African safari or perhaps a polar expedition. Towering up

from its massive tyres, the MAN 6.7-litre diesel belonging to Guido Heiss is a disabled explorer's dream machine.

With permanent four-wheel drive coupled to a six-speed automatic transmission, this drive-from-a-wheelchair monster was commissioned by Guido and built by Unicat. Everything about it is massive, from the engine to the huge lift which launches you up to

safety protection for the right foot on their floor-mounted version of a left-foot accelerator pedal. It's a solution I had always thought quite feasible but had not seen in practice. If adopted here, it would swiftly put paid to the campaign against this type of system. The same company also offers an ingenious pedal system which allows clutch and



Uplifting: the Independence 3000 shows what it's made of

around two metres. Inside is a complete home on wheels.

Guido's aim is to drive solo across Australia and New Zealand in 2000. Who said ambition among disabled drivers is dead?

I am always interested to see different approaches to basic hand controls, particularly offering simpler solutions, and was intrigued to note how Petri und Lehr have introduced

brake to be operated with the left foot, and a wheelchair passenger conversion of the American Ford Windstar.

On the Volkswagen stand, I tried the in-house disabled driver adaptations. Generally, German hand controls are very different from ours, forcing the user to steer entirely with their left hand since the brake and accelerator are well away from the wheel. The cost is different,

Roll up to Reha



Man with a van: Guido Heisse in front of his dream machine

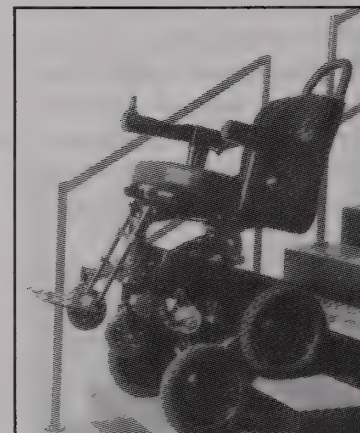
too – just over DM 1,900 (about £593) for brake and accelerator, which is over double what we pay. The VW adaptations are now available through VW dealers in this country. They're very good, but too expensive.

I also took a look at the Four X from Finland, a four-wheel drive chair which really can cope with rough terrain, snow and sand and has amazing climbing ability. It is available in the UK through the Wheelchair Corporation and costs £8,000 plus VAT for the basic model.

Futuristic Spiderwheels, from the Swedish company Decon, could take your old manual proudly into the 21st century. They are the lightest wheels I have ever seen and they look good, too. They are likely

to be quite expensive when Decon starts selling them in the UK.

The star of the show was undoubtedly the Independence 3000. Under development in the USA by Independence Technology, part of Johnson and Johnson, this is a power chair that climbs stairs, drives over rocky paths and through sand. The user can also move at eye level on two wheels: the



Downhill all the way: the Independence 3000 chair can negotiate steps

21st century has truly arrived. The chair's price has not yet been established.

Next year's Reha promises to be better still, but be warned: accommodation is immensely difficult to find.

SAMSON D.O.B. 4 March 1992

Samson is Eritrean and of the Catholic faith.

Samson suffered from hydrocephalus leaving him with severe developmental delay and learning difficulties. He is now diagnosed as autistic.

Samson has a happy, sensitive nature. He enjoys music and can hum familiar tunes and is part of the church choir. Samson is learning Makaton, as he cannot communicate verbally. He can dress and feed himself and he is toilet trained. At times Samson can get "high" and become difficult.

His foster carers say Samson responds well to routine and boundaries, and this is very rewarding for them.

Samson's parents are divorced and he has a 5-year-old brother. However, there will be ongoing contact with his family when placed.

Samson needs a two parent long-term foster family who meet his special needs.



For further information contact: Janette Brewster, 115 Wellesley Road, London NW5 4PA

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Reha, www.rehacare.de

For your local Volkswagen dealer, tel: 0800-333666.

Wheelchair Corporation, tel: (01746) 861940.

Television

Paul Darke

Panorama: Alone and Tired (BBC 1, 8 November) was a lengthy exploration of the treatment of children with myalgic encephalitis. It was a simplified exploration that was insulting to all those who have ever been in a psychiatric ward and have already informed the world that they are dehumanising places. I watched the overnight repeat (BBC 1, 11 November) with in-vision subtitles and signing, and realised what a waste of money such repeats are. In-vision subtitles and signing should be there when the programme is first shown.

Horizon: Mistaken Identity (BBC2, 11 November) looked at multiple personality disorders and whether they actually exist. In reality, that does not matter; all that matters is that support is provided for those people who think they have it.

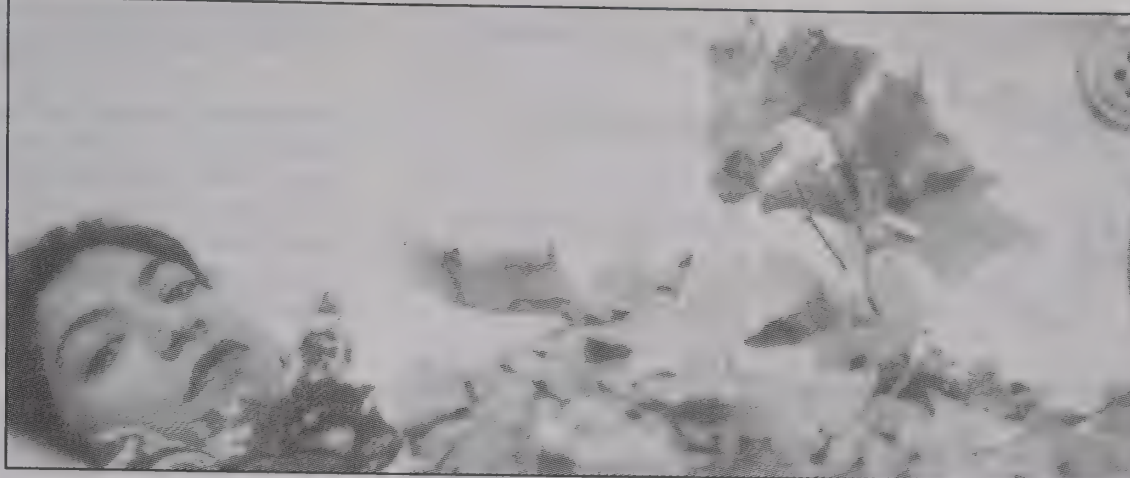
Top of the Pops (BBC1, 12 November) provided light relief, with Geri Halliwell performing *Lift Me Up* in sign. No one at TOTP seemed to realise this and cut it at every opportunity.

I was disappointed by *MacIntyre Undercover* (BBC1, 16 November), which showed a journalist working undercover at a residential home to reveal mistreatment of the people there. The programme managed to dismiss the fact that disabled people have been shouting for years that they are abused in homes. Don't tell us what we already know. (See page 4.)

Love is Blind (Channel 4, 16 November) was a documentary on how wonderful it is to be blind and in love. It made me cry with admiration at the bravery of visually impaired people. I hope everyone who made it feels like the special person they are.

For me, *Kid in the Corner* (C4, 24 November, 1 and 8 December) was on a par with *Love is Blind*. Concerning one family's life with a boy who has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, *Kid in the Corner* was nevertheless well put together and the boy gave a good performance.

Look out for the eating disorders season on C4 shortly. We should see some gross generalisations and, speaking as a fat person myself, lots of enjoyable eating.



Theatre

Jane Shepherd

First performed on BBC Radio 4 in 1997 and adapted for television the following year, Lee Hall's award-winning play *Spoonface Steinberg* had a standing ovation at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre.

With an impressive list of stage and screen credits, Kathryn Hunter is clearly old enough to play the eponymous heroine's mother.

Yet she held the audience for 70 minutes with her totally convincing solo portrayal of a young autistic girl dying of cancer.

Capturing both the childlike innocence and the physical awkwardness of a "special" child, Hunter managed to convey something of what it perhaps feels like to be autistic, with her "God came and touched me on my head and made me."

Her apparent stream-of-consciousness was extremely well choreographed against a simple, curved, spoon-like set representing the child's bedroom – a space with no corners or straight lines, just a smooth curve from walls to floor.

With minimal props – a futon, a jug full of spoons and a small case containing a few lollipops, Hunter carefully arranges and rearranges these items in the obsessive manner of a child who has a far closer relationship with objects than the adults around her. The affinity with spoons came from the child being called Spoonface as a baby.

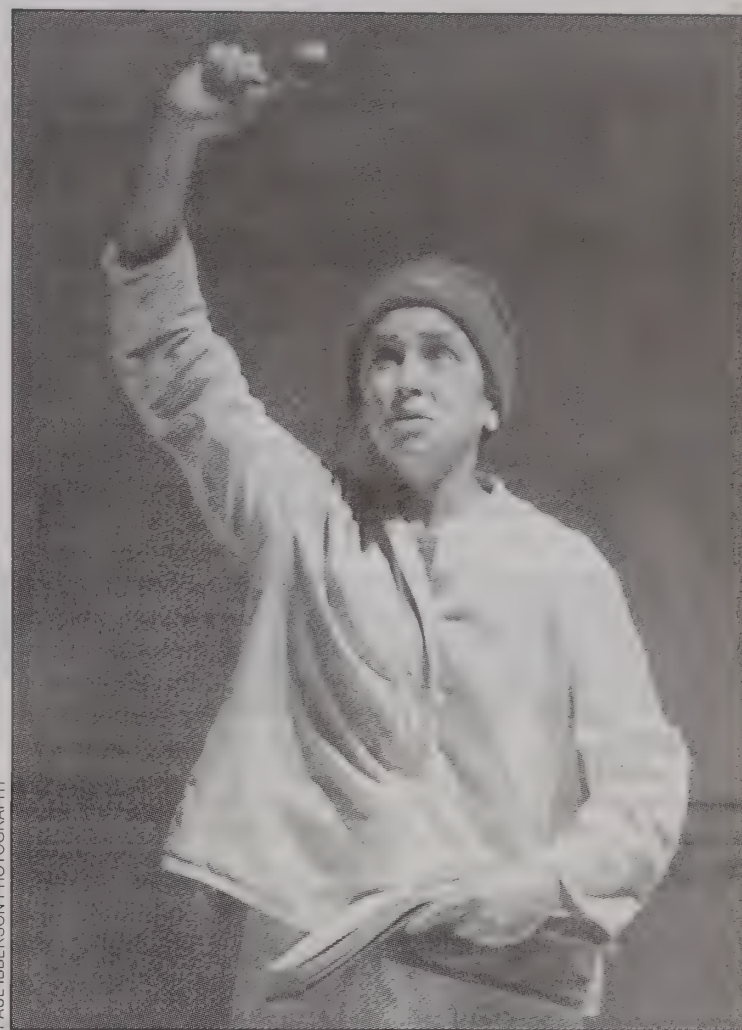
In the matter-of-fact way of many children, we hear how Spoonface's philosopher father went off to live with a "floozie", mum drank vodka and dad sometimes slept with mum when visiting.

We learn how Spoonface had been in a "tube" at the hospital, and had had lots of "rays" and how "they had all smiled, which means something is wrong".

As Spoonface tries to make sense of it all, we are by turns moved and amused by her acute and poignant observations.

Speculating whether God himself has cancer, we hear how Mrs Spud, the cleaner, had told Spoonface: "If God has cancer, we're all in trouble."

Go and see this play if you possibly can. *Spoonface Steinberg* is at the New Ambassadors Theatre in London for three weeks from 4 January, tel: 0207-836 6111.



PAUL IBBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Making sense of it all: Kathryn Hunter as Spoonface

Video top five

1. **THE MATRIX** (Warner) Keanu Reeves in confusing sci-fi schlock.
2. **NOTTING HILL** (Universal) Hugh and Julia get it together.
3. **SHE'S ALL THAT** (FilmFour) Trashy teenage flick.
4. **HUMAN TRAFFIC** (Metrodome) Lost weekend lunacy.
5. **THE WATERBOY** (Buena Vista) More mayhem with Adam Sandler.

Chart supplied by MIRB.

Closed captions – video includes pre-recorded word-for-word captions.

Look out for

- Two described performances of *Dick Whittington and the Coolest Cat in Town* are on at the Clwyd Theatre, Mold, North Wales, 5 and 15 January. Box office, tel: (01352) 755114.
- Visually impaired people can walk round and feel the set of *The Wind in the Willows* at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton on 6 January. Free, tel: (02380) 671771.
- Disability Film Festival 2000 is looking for disabled film-makers. Selected works will be screened in May 2000. The deadline for submissions is 25 February. Contact Caglar Kimyoncu, tel: 0207-916 5484.

Living Options

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* * * * *

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tel/fax: 01243 671865**



Dear Ann

Who better to help you? Ann Darnbrough, who has a disability, is co-author of the Directory for Disabled People and other guides. Write to her at Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or e-mail editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

Sex seems like rape

My sex life is limited because of my disability – I am paralysed from the waist down. My partner likes oral sex. I try to show some interest, but sometimes I get so bored and I really just wish he'd give up on it.

Another problem is that intercourse seems like rape because I get no pleasure. What can I do?

Norah, Wigan

I can understand how you feel because I have heard other disabled women express very similar feelings.

If you had sex before you were disabled, try to remember all the times you got great excitement from that part of your lovemaking.

You can use your memory and it is surprising how intense such remembered feelings can become. Don't forget how much pleasure we can get from indulging in sheer fantasy.

Encourage your partner to discover other parts of your body. You'll never know what pleasure you can have

until you explore different things together.

I need a friend

I am writing to you again because I am finding it difficult to cope now my daughter is not around so much. For the past four years she has been at home most of the time. Even when she went to college, she only went part-time.

Now everything's different. Tracy has a boyfriend and she is spending more and more time with him. She also has a full-time job.

I love my daughter and I want the best for her, but she has changed so much. When I tell her about my worries, she flies off in a rage.

I think a penfriend might help. Have you any ideas?

Julie, Doncaster

I was glad to hear from you again. I am afraid that it was inevitable that your daughter would go on to lead her own life. And, difficult as it must be to accept after all she has done

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

for you, you can only be glad that she is doing so.

One of the hardest things we parents have to cope with is that our children will leave us. All we can hope for is that we will manage to maintain a good relationship.

At this important time in her life, when she is finding herself, you should try not to impose burdens on her.

Have you been in touch with social services, who could arrange for you to have the practical help you need? As well as being useful to you, it would also be a great comfort to Tracy, who is no doubt worrying about you.

As far as a penfriend is concerned, there is an organisation called Friends by Post – you could give them a try. You could also put an advert in DN, of course (see page 35).

Wheelchair workout

I was interested to read in your letters about exercise and dieting for wheelchair users

Home at last

In September I read a letter from Anthony who wanted to buy a property. Because my own experiences eventually turned out right, I want to encourage him to keep on trying.

My partner and I have now been in our own place for three years. But before my luck turned, I was actually made homeless and was sleeping under friends' roofs. I was told I needed to be in the same area for six months before I could officially be classed as homeless. If I had been over 55, a single mother or had a mental disability, there would not have been the same difficulty, but my physical disability didn't count.

Then I found out about "do-it-yourself self-ownership". The scheme gives you the option of purchasing 25, 50 or 75 per cent of a property and renting the remainder – the rent can be covered by housing benefit. There are few building societies prepared to give disabled people a mortgage, but we got one through Nationwide and we're paying less than if we rented.

So, Anthony, don't give up. Get in touch with local housing associations and check if there is a Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) in your area. They may be able to offer some support.

Nita, Chester

Thanks for sharing the story of how you bought a home. I am sure Anthony will be greatly encouraged by your experiences.

who are a touch overweight. I am a newly injured paraplegic and I'll try anything.

I wondered if you had any further tips?

Samantha, Brighton

Have you been in touch with the Spinal Injuries Association? They have produced an exercise video for paraplegics called *Wheelchair Workout*. It's definitely worth a try.

PS: Chilly readers may like to know about the Winter Warmth Line, which provides information for "older and vulnerable people" on keeping warm and well during the winter months. Information is also available on benefit

entitlements, cold weather payments and grants for energy efficiency improvements.

- Friends by Post, 43 Chatsworth Road, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8DA.
- Spinal Injuries Association, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DE, tel: 0181-444 2121. Ask for Arlette Morris on ext. 222. *Wheelchair Workout*, £13.99 plus p&cp.
- Winter Warmth Line, Freepost 3124, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 6YY, tel: 0800-289 404, minicom: 0800-269 626. Line open until 31 March.
- DIAL, tel: (01302) 310123.

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To find out more, arrange a visit or to discuss your hopes for the future, contact: Admissions, Hereward College, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW. Tel: 024 7646 1231. Fax: 024 7669 4305. Minicom facility available.

Visit our Website on: www.hereward.ac.uk



Hereward College exists to provide education and training to its community of customers.



HEREWARD COLLEGE... OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

A UNIQUE SERVICE!



DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, and she has a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. Talk to her on (01787) 882111 on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm.

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In July 1985 Stuart Dunne, the Managing Director and Founder of Cyclone, was rushed to the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries following a serious RTA in which he severed his spinal cord at C6/7. The skill and dedication of staff at Oswestry saw him through the next 6 months and prepared him for life in the outside world. Cyclone Mobility and Fitness are now one of the country's leading mobility providers.

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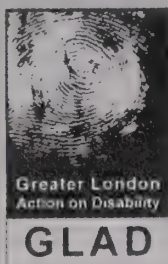
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Tel. No. _____ DN 1/00

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Thera Trainer Range	Sports Chairs
Everyday Chairs	Hand Cycles
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Power Chairs	

• Recruitment (also on pages 39, 40 & 41)



Applications are restricted to disabled people for all 3 posts. GLAD's offices are fully accessible.

Job packs for these posts are available in print, large print, audio tape and on disk from:

Admin & Finance Department, GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel: 0171 346 5800, m'com: 0171 346 5811, fax: 0171 346 5810, email: glad@btinternet.com

Closing date for all 3 posts: 10 January 2000. Interviews will take place between 19 January and 4 February 2000.

GLAD is a registered charity no. 293158

Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD)

wishes to appoint disabled people to 3 posts. All posts will be involved in a programme of work to put in place sustainable support mechanisms for small disability organisations in London. This programme of work will be managed by GLAD's Development Co-ordinator.

Post 1: Membership Development Officer

£21,027, Fixed term contract February 2000 to end of July 2002, 35hrs p/w

Post 2: Development Worker

£21,027, Fixed term 3-year contract, 35hrs p/w

The Development Worker will be working specifically with black and ethnic minority disability groups. Therefore, the post is targeted at a disabled person from a black or ethnic minority community only (under Section 5(2)d of Race Relations Act 1976).

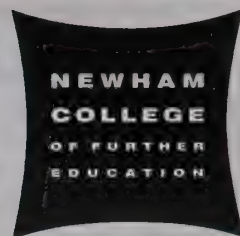
Both posts will be working with groups under-represented in the disability movement in order to provide development support for these organisations. Applicants therefore must have experience of community development work, knowledge of and commitment to the disabled peoples' movement and the social model of disability. You must be able to provide information in an appropriate and accessible way.

Post 3: Administration Assistant

£7,696.50, Fixed term 3-year contract, 17.5hrs p/w

You will provide administrative support to the Development staff at GLAD. You will need excellent administrative skills, including word-processing (MS Word 97), maintaining office systems and minute-taking.

All 3 post holders must be able to work to targets and deadlines, and be able to work well as part of a team. They must have an understanding of equal opportunities and be able to put it into practice in your work. Post 1 is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. Posts 2 and 3 are funded by the City Parochial Foundation.



The college is committed and positive about employing disabled people. We advertise vacancies regularly in the National and Local press.

If you would like further information on our current vacancies, please telephone our Human Resources Department on the number below.

Tel: 0181 257 4372
Fax: 0181 257 4300



Please note that Newham College is a no smoking employer

Join the Learning Revolution

Lifelong Learning Facilitator

Ref: 02, salary scale 6

£19,200 - £20,319

35 hours per week

Funded by the Adult & Community Learning Fund

ADKC, a local organisation of disabled people are seeking to recruit a Lifelong Learning Facilitator:

- ☞ To facilitate the inclusion of disabled people in mainstream classes and courses;
- ☞ To support providers through the process of improving their access.

ADKC offices are fully accessible. For an application pack please ring ADKC on 0181-960 8863 (minicom users 0181-960 8888).

Application pack available in all formats.

Closing date: 17 January 2000.

Interview date: w/b 24 January 2000.



Merton MIND

Co-ordinator, User Involvement Project (Ref U1)

Scale SO2, currently £10,469 pa for 18 hrs pw



Initially funded for 3 years by Merton, Sutton & Wandsworth Health Authority and London Borough of Merton. We are looking for a Co-ordinator to develop the project. Candidates should have experience in working with people with mental health problems and user involvement. The post is based in Mitcham.

For job application please contact us at Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3UD, tel: 0181 648 6565.

Closing date: 31 January 2000.

Merton MIND is an equal opportunities employer

BISHOP GROSSETESTE COLLEGE [Founded in 1862]

Disability Co-ordinator

Part-time, 0.5 FTE, 18.5 hours a week for 3 years of funding

Salary: £19,017 - £22,118 pro rata



The aim of this post, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, is to improve provision for disabled students at BGC. The successful candidate will have at least 2 years of working with disabled people, and knowledge of the Disabled Students Allowance. They will be able to work on their own initiative, conduct research, write reports and present to student and professional groups. Competence in Office 97 is required; the ability to develop a database would be desirable, as would skills in managing a budget and in training.

BGC has an Equal Opportunities policy. Applications are welcomed from all regardless of age, sex, marital status, ethnic origin, race, colour, nationality, sexual preference or disability. A disability will be considered an additional, but not an essential, qualification for this post.

For an application form and further details, please write to Emma Brice at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, LN1 3DY enclosing a large SAE, or tel: (01522) 527347. Closing date for returned applications is 3 January 2000.

on-line: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

If you advertise in DN's classified pages, have you considered our website? Since being shortlisted for the Popular Communications website awards, it continues to expand and attract dedicated users.

It carries sample news and features from the current issue, an archive of all news and features from Jan 97 to July 99, and over 270 links to other useful sites. Our jobs page is growing rapidly because advertisers know they can reach their target audience.

If you want a second opinion, check out what some of our browsers feel about it (names are abbreviated for confidentiality).

☞ *I'd like to congratulate you on your superb website. I use it regularly to keep in touch with the latest job vacancies and I enjoy reading your features immensely!* - K.R.

☞ *We used to subscribe but ran out of spare cash. Then we found your website while looking for addresses to send a letter to. Now we just keep coming back.* - T.H., Isle of Wight

☞ *It's great to be able to talk to you and let you know that I really appreciate all the hard work that has been done already to create news and information for people with disabilities and those who are seeking to discover more.* - P.Q., Kingston-upon-Hull

☞ *Have just received introductory copy of Disability Now and found it full of useful copy as well as relevant adverts and other helpful info.* - J.M., Bristol

☞ *I like your magazine, which I borrowed from a friend. Pity more people don't know about it. Was pleased to find that you're on line and will be bookmarking your site. Keep up the good work.* - D.R.

☞ *You provide a lot of informative and useful information - good work.* - J.

☞ *Glad to find the site. Been a reader for several years. Keep up the good work!* - J.A., Cambridge.

Opportunity For Enablement Ltd

General Manager wanted to start up and run a not-for-profit company for disabled people.

OPEN is a not-for-profit company set up to employ disabled people working from their homes in market and information research. Using our expertise in the field of health supplies we intend to create a market and information research company where work can be done by disabled people equipped with the latest IT. Employees will be fully trained by us and will then be supported to work at whatever speed is appropriate to their circumstances. The outcome will be a commercial enterprise creating real and challenging jobs for people who would otherwise not have such an opportunity.

We want to appoint a General Manager who will be responsible for the set up and development of this project through to a successful commercial enterprise. Candidates should be:

- enthusiastic, energetic, outgoing and caring individuals;
- educated to degree level, preferably in a life sciences degree or equivalent;
- have a reasonable competence in IT;
- be effective communicators, both verbally and in writing;
- with a proven track record in building successful working teams.

The job will be located in the Guildford/Horsham area. Given the nature of the work, disabled applicants are encouraged to apply. It is expected that your first activities will include staff recruitment and training as well as liaison with customers. Initially this position will be on a voluntary basis, but it is planned that it will become a salaried position as the venture develops.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter to Dr Colin Connolly, Opportunity for Enablement Ltd, Daniels, Newpound, Wisborough Green, West Sussex RH14 0AX, or e-mail: cconnres@aol.com

DN is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

• Recruitment (also on pages 38, 40 & 41)

GIVING EVERYONE A CHANCE In the job market

We've made a commitment to interview every applicant who is disabled - as long as they meet the essential selection criteria for the post they're after - whether it's telephone fundraising or canvassing, HR or finance, IT systems or retail or working directly with children and young people. All these functions serve Britain's largest children's charity and are essential to make a practical difference to the lives of children or young people and their families.

The Barnardo's "Basis and Values" statement complements our Equal Opportunities policy which commits us to increasing the number of staff and volunteers who are disabled. So, if you see a Barnardo's post you're interested in, don't hesitate for a second. Alternatively contact our job information line on Tel: 020 8498 7009 (24 hour answerphone) or Minicom: 020 8498 7079 quoting reference: DN1.

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Minicom: (01623) 625891 (office hours)
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RESEARCH, INFORMATION & REPRESENTATION OFFICER (Full-time; 37 hours per week)

DIAL Mansfield and District wishes to appoint to this post to help take DIAL forward into the next millennium. We have secure funding for the next three years and wish to employ somebody who will make a difference.

The successful applicant will work on advocacy issues and maintain a caseload. The long-term goal is to recruit a group of volunteers with disabilities or who are carers to provide services to disabled people within the representation and advocacy field.

Shortlisted applicants will be knowledgeable about and have experience of advocacy issues together with a working knowledge of information technology and research methods.

Disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

Salary: NJC Scale 4 pts 18-21; £12,912- £14,391.

DIAL Mansfield and District aspires to being an equal opportunities employer.

An information pack and an application form are available from the DIAL office at the above address.

Closing date for applications:
21 January 2000.

Dial is supported by Nottinghamshire County Council
and the National Lottery Charities Board.



Imagine the board is equal opportunities issues.



The darts are people's attempts to manage them
and the holes are the ones in their thinking.

Here's our fresh approach.

Equalities Officer (Disability) Up to £26k plus package

At Northamptonshire County Council we have launched one of the most progressive equalities initiatives in the country.

We are intent on challenging convention, improving consultation, promoting partnership and developing our policies and practices.

We are now looking for someone to join our new Equalities Team to drive forward the comprehensive disability agenda and contribute to other equality issues. You will already be a specialist in disability equality and have gained experience in the reviewing, development and implementation of policies.

The post holder will advise on employment, training,

access and service delivery issues, but work with colleagues to deliver this comprehensive agenda. You will come from a local government authority or voluntary sector background and be responsible for establishing strong community links.

You will need excellent communication skills, the ability to work effectively across directorates and organisational boundaries, and be able to work on your own initiative as well as a team player.

For an informal discussion about this position, please contact Darryl Telles, Head of Equalities, on 01604 237326. Information is available in braille, large print or on tape.



**Northamptonshire
County Council**
Working Towards Equality

For further details and an application form please telephone Manjit Sohal on 01604 237315 or write to Resources Personnel, PO Box 93, County Hall, Northampton, NN1 1AN. e-mail: msahal@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Closing date is 12th January 2000. Interview date is 27th January 2000.

dartington
college
of
arts

application form and further
particulars from:

Kathy Taylor,
Administrator Personnel
Dartington College of Arts
Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ
Tel. +44 (0) 1803 862224
Fax. +44 (0) 1803 863569
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disability officer 0.5

APT&C scale 6 : £8,562 - £9,144 per annum for half time post
Three year 0.5 fixed-term contract

This challenging new appointment results from a successful bid to the Higher Education Funding Council (England) and forms part of a project under its initiative *Improving Provision for Disabled Students*.

The appointee will make a major contribution to the College's implementation of policies and practices relating to students with disabilities and to the further development of strategies to improve access and widen participation. Particular attention will be focused on:

1. supporting students with dyslexia, other learning difficulties and hearing impairment, in the context of education and training in the performing arts in a small, rural based college.
2. taking an advisory role in curriculum developments designed not only to support undergraduate learning, but to foster creative design in performance training and assessment criteria appropriate to disabled student artist/performers.

Hours and patterns of work are negotiable.

Dartington College of Arts is a university sector institution specialising in contemporary performance arts practices. The College combines undergraduate and postgraduate teaching with research.

closing date for returned applications Monday 31 January 2000
interviews will take place on Friday 18 February 2000

• Services

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2000

Classified deadlines for
the February issue:
Booking deadline is
14 January
Copy deadline is
18 January

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Salary scale 6
£19,200 - £20,319 pro rata
18 hours per week

ADKC
Action Disability
Kensington & Chelsea

ADKC, a local organisation of disabled people are seeking to recruit a Volunteer Co-ordinator to:

- Establish a small befriending and "help" service;
- Find volunteers for ADKC's services.

Some experience of working with volunteers is essential.

ADKC offices are fully accessible. For an application pack please ring ADKC on 0181-960 8863 (minicom users 0181-960 8888).

Application pack available in all formats.

Closing date: 17 January 2000.

Interview date: 24 January 2000.



Situations wanted

VIDEOS Former TV reporter who now has MS and is a wheelchair user, seeks writing and research work. Offers Media Awareness Training and video production.
Contact David, tel/fax: 01332 755520
e-mail: varowatson@callnetuk.com

Accommodation

Are you a disabled couple who would like to live independently, but need residential care?
Blenheim House has a two bedroom flat available. Your own front door and all the care you need. Send for brochure from:
Helen Joyce, Blenheim House, Hemswell Cliff, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 5TJ

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DN is on the web. Visit our site at <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk> or you can e-mail us with ideas on editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

Recruitment (also on page 38, 39 & 41)

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Liverpool Hope's mission is to educate the whole person in mind, body and spirit. The College has been awarded project funding under HEFCE's, New Disability Funding Programme aimed at widening choice for disabled students, encouraging networking and developing collaboration between institutions.
Project Worker/s - Students with disabilities
~ Ref: DEC1 ~
The Deanery of Hope in the Community seeks applications from graduate or equivalent-level persons who have experience of working with people with disabilities and possess knowledge of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and best practice. Candidates should have highly developed interpersonal skills for assessment, guidance and counselling of students with disabilities and they should be IT literate. A disability will be considered an additional but not essential qualification for employment within the project.
Appointment/s will be pensionable and initially for three years, with salary pro rata to/ in the range £19 - 22K.
Ideally we would wish to make two complementary part-time appointments at around 20 hours per week throughout the student year, though applications for full-time work will also be considered, as will job sharing applications. It is important that candidates state their preference. Precise working patterns will be agreed with the successful candidate/s.
Application forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel Office, Liverpool Hope University College, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD, by telephoning 0151 291 3661 (24 hours) or by e-mailing jobs@hope.ac.uk. Details are available from request in Braille, large print or on tape.
The College is aiming to be an Equal Opportunities employer.
Closing date for receipt of applications will be Friday 21st January 2000.
Please quote job reference DEC1 in all communications.

Courses

Supporting the Child with Severe Learning Disabilities
A diploma home-study course from The Learning Institute.
For free details, phone:
01934 713563
The Learning Institute
FREEPOST SWB 753,
Wedmore BS28 4ZZ
<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/institute>

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact the Advertising Manager, Richard Gresham at Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, or tel: 0171-619 7336, fax: 0171-619 7331, minicom: 0171-619 7332.

University of East Anglia, Norwich Overseas Development Group.
Disability, Community-based Rehabilitation, Human Rights and Development (short course). Norwich, UK based.
This 5 week course intends to improve the capacity of professionals working within the field of CBR in the Developing World, by examining concepts and practical strategies that will enhance the involvement and participation of disabled people and the community in the planning, management and evaluation of services.
The year 2000 course takes place between 12 June-14 July, at a cost of £4,750 per person (includes accommodation).
For further information and an application form, please contact:
The Training Office, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1603 456410, fax: +44 (0)1603 505262, e-mail: odg.train@uea.ac.uk, website: www.uea.ac.uk/dev/odg

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Our courses are aimed at professionals working at an advanced practice level in the social and community care, health and criminal justice sectors. Qualified Social Workers can incorporate the Advanced Award in Social Work.
The next intakes for these courses in 2000 are February and September
We also provide short courses in Child Protection, Practice Teaching, Inspection, Mentoring and Specialist Law.
KINGSTON UNIVERSITY
St George's Hospital Medical School
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
For further information please telephone the MA Course Administrator, Indra Fallon on 0181 547 7013 or write to:
School of Social Work, Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, K T2 7LB.

Merseyside Disability Federation
Disability Research Co-ordinator
Salary: £21,520 (fixed term two year contract)
The Federation, to be established as a registered charity, is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.
The Co-ordinator is to be experienced in working with disabled people and voluntary organisations; able to influence strategic planning; have proven research experience and ability to develop baseline information for dissemination; to build up a network of contacts and organise workshops and seminars. You must provide written reports to Management Committee and the National Lottery.
For job description and further information, contact:
Jean Whitehead, Greenbank Project, Greenbank Lane, Liverpool L17 1AG, tel: 0151 733 7255.
Closing date: 6 January 2000, Interviews: 20-21 January
Applications are particularly welcome from disabled people

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
LEISURE SERVICES
SPORT
DISABILITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
P01 £20,955-£22,581 per annum
Applicants are invited for the post of Disability Sports Development Officer with Leeds City Council
Leeds has now established a wide range of opportunities for disabled people to participate in sport and active recreation. The city has a regular programme of weekly activities for disabled people, a series of disability sports events and a number of integrated clubs and activities. There is also a continuing programme of improving access and facilities for disabled people in line with the Disability Discrimination Act (1995).
Working in the City's Sports Development Unit, part of the Sport Division of Leisure Services, the postholder will be responsible for continuing and extending this programme. This will involve liaising with a wide range of disability sports groups, governing bodies of sport, local government departments and other agencies. Accordingly, candidates must be able to demonstrate experience and knowledge of disability sport and the issues affecting disabled people in relation to sport and active recreation.
Applications are particularly welcome from members of ethnic minorities and disabled people as these groups are currently under represented within the Department.
Application forms can be obtained from the Personnel Section, Leisure Services, The Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AD, or telephone Leeds (0113) 247 8382. Minicom (0113) 224 3395.
CLOSING DATE: 13 JANUARY 2000.
"WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY"
The City Council has a no smoking policy.
FULL-TIME POST(S) SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARING

DISABILITY OPTIONS TEAM
Disability Counsellor
£4,478 - £5,168 per annum inc One day a week
The Disability Options Team is an inter-disciplinary team working with adults with physical disabilities in the community setting. Clients seen by the team have complex difficulties, and require different professionals to be working closely with one another.
This post would provide a one-to-one confidential counselling service to clients in their own homes, health centres or in the most appropriate setting. Also, together with another Disability Counsellor and the team's Clinical Psychologist, you would be responsible for giving advice and support to other professionals in the team regarding psychological issues related to disability.
You will need to have at least two years' counselling experience, the ability to work as part of a team and experience of working with people who have physical disabilities. For an informal discussion, please contact Jane Woodrow on 0171 377 7841.
For an application pack, please contact the Personnel Department, Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London E1 4DG or telephone 0181 981 5133 (24 hour answer machine). Please quote Ref: DOT/CJ/Q40. Closing date: 14 January 2000.
T&H TOWER HAMLETS HEALTHCARE NHS Trust
Working Towards Equal Opportunities

• Recruitment (also on pages 38, 39 & 40)

The new London calling... Metropolitan Police Authority needs six independent members



Home Office

The new Metropolitan Police Authority will be firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities.

The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) starts work in July 2000. The creation of the MPA will be a vital development in the policing of London. For the first time in the 170-year history of the Metropolitan Police its work will be overseen by a police authority which is democratically accountable to local people.

The MPA will need dedicated members so that it can secure an effective and efficient police service for the 21st century. It has vacancies for six independent members to represent the interests of as many local people as possible in one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. If you...

- ✓ want to build a partnership between Londoners and the Metropolitan Police to reduce crime
- ✓ want to ensure that the capital gets good quality, good value, responsive policing
- ✓ have strong skills and experience which will benefit the MPA - for example in management, business, finance, community work or race relations
- ✓ are a first-class communicator with a positive, open-minded approach
- ✓ are aged 21 or over, will have lived or worked in London for 12 months by July 2000, and are able to commit at least 24-30 days a year to this important work...

Answer the call!

For an information pack and application form, contact **Central Support Team (MPA), Police Resources Unit, Home Office, Room 623, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Tel: 0171 273 3256.** Information is also available on the Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is **4th February 2000.**

- ★ Your duties will include attending meetings of the MPA and its committees; keeping abreast of developments in local and national policing; representing the MPA in discussions with interested parties; attending local police consultative groups; and liaising with representatives of the local community on policing issues.
- ★ The MPA's wide remit will include consulting local people about London's policing priorities; publishing an annual policing plan; securing best value in policing services; promoting good community and race relations; and appointing senior police officers.
- ★ Your appointment will normally be for four years.
- ★ You will be paid an allowance and expenses.
- ★ To be eligible, your main place of residence or work must be in one of the 32 London Boroughs.

Association
of Police
Authorities

• Personal

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• Accommodation

DISABLED CARAVAN (GADSAD), with all amenities. Situated in the New Forest. For details, tel: (01705) 783636.

• Assistance required

MALE, 47, WHEELCHAIR user, n/s, own home. Seeks female live-in carer/companion aged 35-50. Minimal care required. Hours/wage negotiable. For details, tel: 0161-775 0481.

IS THIS YOU?

Personal care assistant required in South East London for an easy-going, fun-loving, physically disabled man. Driving licence preferred. Please contact Kim, tel: 0181-289 2055.

I NEED DIARISTS to assist me with my research into representations of disability on television. I am particularly interested to hear from people who are interested in soap operas, whether you loathe or love them. If you are interested in assisting me with this project, I would be delighted if you would contact me at The Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, W.Yorks, e-mail: spljabu@leeds.ac.uk, or tel: (01904) 628767. Diaries and telephone/postage expenses are provided.

HAVE YOU BEEN injured? Has it affected your ability to get a job? What about your confidence? I am doing some research for London University and would love to speak with you. Please contact Jean Brading, Birchland, Ravensworth Road, Mortimer West End, Reading RG7 3UD, tel: 0118-933 3366, fax: 0118-933 3662, e-mail: jean.brading@charterhouse-partnership.co.uk

• Wanted

DISABLED MAN, AGED 48, requires small respite unit or one-to-one care. Can you help. Telephone: (01245) 441437.

ATTENTION



To advertise your holiday accommodation in the next two issues of *DN*, contact:

Richard: 0171 619 7336
E-mail: richard.gresham@scope.org.uk
Patrick: 0171 619 7320
Fax: 0171 619 7331

Information and Researcher Officer (Permanent)

Salary: £20,000 - £22,000 + benefits

The Employers' Forum on Disability is the national employers' organisation focused on disability in the UK.

As part of the Information team you will research, record and communicate information on disability issues and relevant legislation. You will specifically advise members on both the employment and goods and services provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, promoting a best practice approach.

Other responsibilities include; researching and drafting publications and material for Forum events.

There will also be the opportunity to work on disability policy.

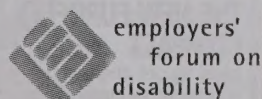
You will possess excellent communication skills, be a team player, have initiative, be computer literate and flexible in your approach to work. You will need to be a clear, logical thinker and be able to apply sound judgement. Experience of disability issues and legislation would be an advantage.

Please send your CV with covering letter, outlining how you meet the requirements of the post to Jayshree Dayal, Employers' Forum on Disability, Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street, London, SE1 2NY, or e-mail your CV (text or Word format) with covering note to jayshree.dayal@employers-forum.co.uk

Closing date: 21 January 2000

The Forum is an equal opportunities employer, and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people.

Web: <http://www.employers-forum.co.uk>



employers'
forum on
disability

DEVELOPING DIRECT PAYMENTS IN CUMBRIA

Direct Payments Co-ordinator Two year contract (full-time) Salary £20,355 (fixed point)

An enthusiastic individual is needed to introduce and develop a Direct Payments scheme in Cumbria. Knowledge of Direct Payments and related issues is essential, as is experience of working with disabled people and their organisations. The post will be managed by a steering group of service users, representatives from Social Services (Cumbria County Council) and local disability groups.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Fred Wilenius on (01228) 818555.

Further details and application form can be obtained from Judith Kirkup at Policy & Research Unit, Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 8NA. Tel. (01228) 606510. Completed application forms to be returned no later than Friday, 14 January 2000.

Information can be provided in alternative formats, on request.

All applications will be considered on the basis of suitability regardless of sex, race, marital status or disability. Disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria will be interviewed.

Cumbria
COUNTY COUNCIL



After the Christmas festivities have finished, winter can feel like a long time, and we all long for some cheering sun to perk us up.

Well, here's your chance to soak up some rays and relax in comfort.

Thanks to the Winged Fellowship Trust, DN has a week's break for a lucky reader at the Mar-y-Sol hotel in Los Christianos, Tenerife, worth £1,100.

The hotel (right), is made up

of 200 self-catering apartments and studios surrounding three pools. The whole complex is fully wheelchair accessible. The hotel has a fully equipped gymnasium, sauna and treatment centre where guests can get a massage. There's a restaurant and poolside bar, and of the three pools one is extra heated and has a warm jet massager,

Soak up the summer sun

and one is smaller for walking and exercising.

The holiday includes seven nights accommodation, including breakfast and dinner, flights with transfers to and from the hotel, full insurance,

as a party.

Unlucky entrants may still be interested to know that the Winged Fellowship Trust has launched its New Discovery Holidays Worldwide brochure and UK centre brochure. New



Terms and conditions

- The winner must accept and adhere to the details listed in the text
- The winner must return a completed booking form and his/her GP must complete a Winged Fellowship Trust medical certificate declaring the winner fit to travel
- Winged Fellowship Trust is unable to provide a break for persons with mental illness, severe learning disabilities or uncontrolled epilepsy

on a postcard marked "Tenerife" offer, to Winged Fellowship Trust, Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD. The draw will be made on 1 March by the Winged Fellowship's Chief Executive.

Standard terms and conditions

- Closing date: 28 February 2000 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winner notified by telephone • DN reserves the right to use winners for future publicity • Editor's/Winged Fellowship's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates

planned excursions in the New Discovery minibus, one-to-one care, nurse and courier.

Departure is from Gatwick Airport on 25 April, returning 2 May 2000.

The offer is only open to people with physical disabilities who need a carer and accessible accommodation when on holiday. The winner will be one of eight disabled guests and eight care assistants travelling

Discovery Holidays Worldwide provides holidays, with care, to a range of destinations in the UK and overseas such as Jersey, Egypt and Sri Lanka.

There are five UK centres all offering accessible stays in scenic surroundings. For a copy of either brochure, tel: 0207-833 2594.

To enter send your name, address and telephone number

See p27 for another great holiday competition - a weekend for two at the Copthorne Tara Hotel in London

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By DN's astrologer
Marion Stanton

The millennium brings hope of new starts and positive futures. The stars give an insight into opportunities and pitfalls, but the rest is up to you!

CAPRICORN (22 Dec-20 Jan)

The sun in your sign and the moon sends good vibes. Sensitivity to others will get you far. Stick to well-made plans.

AQUARIUS (21 Jan-19 Feb)

The millennium starts with tension. Your plans seem stifled by authority. Deal with the fireworks or, better still, enlist the help of others.

PISCES (20 Feb-20 Mar)

Your love life fluctuates. Preparation at work could make others join you. Mars gives you energy for an important task.

ARIES (21 Mar-20 Apr)

It's a rocky start to the year – work and home giving you a hard time – so set firm priorities. An unusual idea could set the scene for better things.

TAURUS (21 Apr-21 May)

Self-possession is the key. Stand your ground and communicate – people will listen. An idea can become reality.

GEMINI (22 May-22 June)

You seem to enter 2000 with a silver tongue, but others will need convincing. Back up plans with action.

CANCER (23 June-23 July)

Opposing your boss isn't a good start. Luck will not get you through this one. Talk your way out, but don't let your tongue run away with you.

LEO (24 July-23 Aug)

Your love life is on a high. Believe in your relationship – it will carry you far. Cement home relationships first and let them lead your career path.

VIRGO (24 Aug-23 Sept)

Hold back on an idea and keep things close to your chest. Let the New Year pass by and then try your idea out.

LIBRA (24 Sept-23 Oct)

You are inspired to follow a dream. You could get opposition at work, but you will gain more following intuition and taking a few risks.

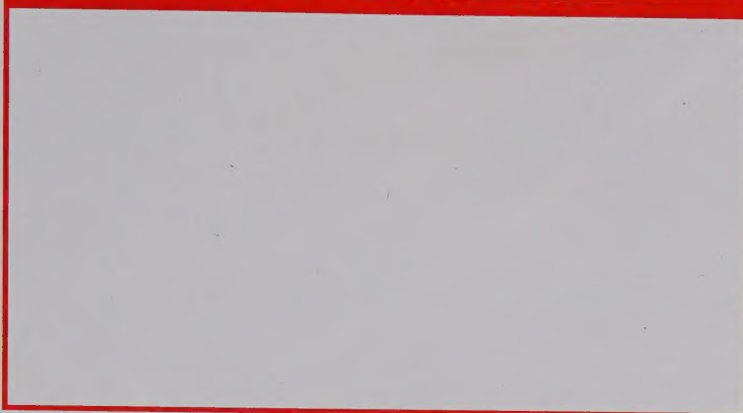
SCORPIO (24 Oct-22 Nov)

Restrictions have been getting you down. Grasp the opportunity to make a new start. You'll get support at work.

SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov-21 Dec)

You're lucky in love and business as you move into 2000. Listen to the needs of those closest and you will go far.

Scribble pad



Candid Dan



Dan Batten's reserve gets put to the test at home and away

After 22 years of living in the same flat, I've often wondered who created my cosy abode. Now recent occurrences have uncovered the chap responsible. His name was Jack.

A sink upsurge in the kitchen gave me a ready-made set of rapids to negotiate. A blocked loo on the day five mates came round, after a heavy drinking session, to watch Lennox Lewis become world boxing champ almost spelt disaster.

Another scary moment came when I was asked to speak about my job at Scope's AGM in Blackpool. Waiting to talk, I felt something the Batten psyche is normally immune to – fear. I had prepared a speech that would wow the audience as only I can, but delivering it I realised my insides would have been more stable after six rides on the roller coaster on the seafront.

In a re-enactment of a recent one2one phone advert on tv, friends have been scouting out a woman I've met. I'd gladly do it myself, but whenever said person is about my tongue turns to lead and my brain to stew. Someone as garrulous as myself shouldn't have this problem...but I do.

Lastly, a period of intense mourning is currently underway. My friend "Dr Winz" has got a job in Chichester and is leaving the smoke after less than a year. No one else can talk such filth and make it quite as eloquent. I feel a sense of loss at his leaving, akin to that which Derek must have felt without Clive.

Chichester is trembling with fear as I write...

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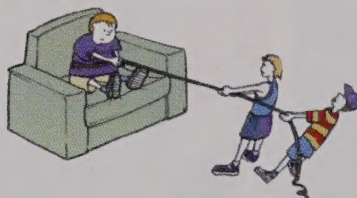


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DN's crossword
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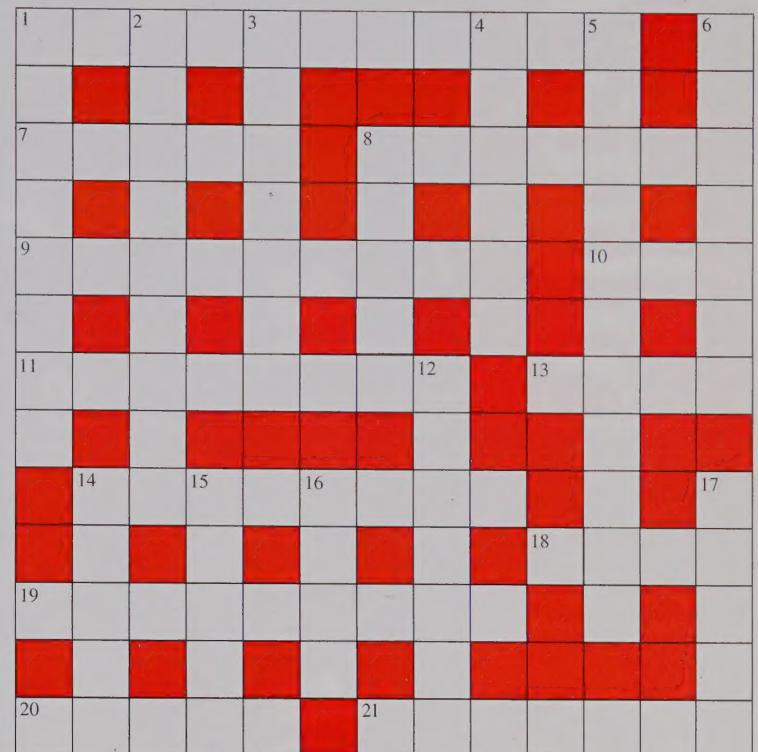
Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



Answers on page 37

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

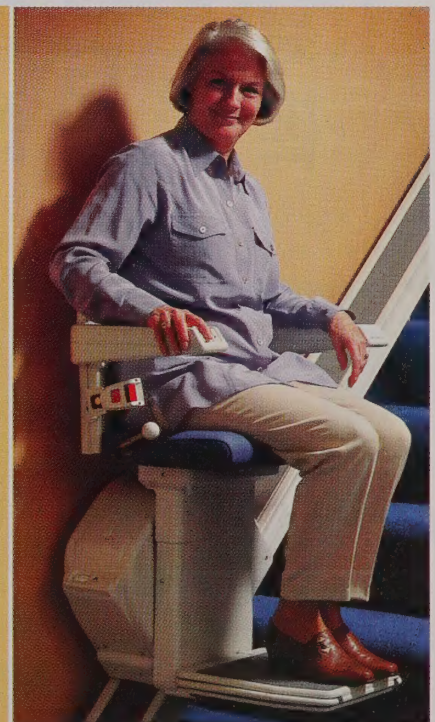
- Football terrace routine (7,4)
- Money (slang) (5)
- Enigma (7)
- Powerlessness (9)
- Drink or meal (3)
- Resemble (4,4)
- A lot (4)
- Parroted (anag)
- Knock out or impress (4)
- See 1 down
- The..., 60s pop group (5)
- Murky (not like 3 down) (7)

DOWN

- 1 & 19 across. Type of disability (8,9)
- Instrument (9)
- Clear quartz (7)
- Response (6)
- Yet vain lute (anag)
- One who sobs self-pityingly (3,4)
- Belorussian city (5)
- Tie moon (anag)
- In bad taste (5)
- Disaster (4)
- Go in (5)

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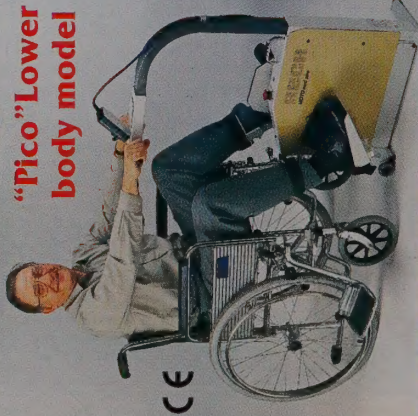
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Jobs

p38-41 and on our website: www.disabilitynow.org.uk